Hafa Adai!

Mendoza and Santos win API Heritage Month Essay Contest. PAGE 2

2 flat-screen TVs stolen from Mt. Carmel Cathedral. PAGE 3

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 105

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY MAY 27, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IN ONGOING CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS VS TORRES

OAG subpoenas 9 to testify

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has subpoenaed nine current and former government officials to testify at the July 5 criminal proceedings against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, whom the OAG is suing for alleged misconduct in public office and theft.

OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass issued subpoenas yesterday morning for former Department of Finance secretary Larissa Larson, current Finance Secretary David Atalig, and Sen. Victor Hocog (R-Rota). Glass also issued subpoenas for Bernadita Palacios, Chari Ramos, Frances Dela Cruz, Bobbie Cabrera, Frances Salas, and Joey Cruz.

The OAG filed a criminal case against Torres last April alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or

See OAG on Page 4

SHRM MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Delegate Gregorio Kilili-C. Sablan (Ind-MP) participates in the May 2022 general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resources Management yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. At the same meeting, U.S. Customs and Immigration Services updated CNMI employers on the CW-1 touchback rules governing those with CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) visa classification.
BEA CABRERA

Defense moves to acquit Artman truck driver

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The jury trial of an Artman garbage truck driver accused of killing a man in a fatal car accident last year concluded the fourth and final day of arguments with the defense seeking the acquittal of the defendant on all charges.

After resting its case, the defense, through Office of the Public Defender's Vina Seelam, made a motion outside the presence of the jury to acquit Eduardo Fabia, 50, of all charges filed against him, including reckless driving, traffic signal violations, and homicide by vehicle.

"At this time, we would like to make a motion for a judgment of acquittal as to all counts of the information," she said.

Office of the Attorney General's Steve Kessell argued that, by making this motion, the defense is taking the responsibility away from the jury to take all the evidence presented into account and

See DEFENSE on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

China wants 10 Pacific nations to endorse sweeping agreement

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—China wants 10 small Pacific nations to endorse a sweeping agreement covering everything from security to fisheries in what one leader warns is a "game-changing" bid by Beijing to wrest control of the region.

See CHINA on Page 4

Senate confirms Cepeda to CEC, 3 others to NMTI board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the appointment of Police Lt. Jesus S. Cepeda to serve as a commissioner for the Commonwealth Election Commission, representing Saipan.

At the same session, the Senate also confirmed the appointment of Keith Stewart and Zenn Joseph Q. Tomokane, and the re-appointment of Irene N. Holl, to serve as members of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees representing Saipan.

All nine senators voted "yes" for the confirmation of Cepeda, Stewart, and Tomokane.

Six senators voted "yes" and three voted "no" for the confirmation of Holl. Sens. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) voted against Holl's confirmation.

See SENATE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Today marks 30 years of partnership between the Marianas and Asiana Airlines.

Page 8

NATION
Investigators work to track the massacre at a Texas elementary school that killed 21.

Page 19

ASIA
Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is proclaimed the next president of the Philippines by a session of Congress.

Page 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Mendoza and Santos win API Heritage Month Essay Contest

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that 8th grade student Mikaehla Paige Reyes Mendoza and senior Aleia Hofschneider Santos, both from Mount Carmel School, were the winners of the 2022 Northern Marianas Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Essay Contest.

A group of volunteer judges chose Mendoza and Santos's work from among 10 essays submitted by middle school students and 12 entries submitted by high school students in the Marianas.

"Congratulations to Ms. Mendoza and Ms. Santos for winning the second annual Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Essay Contest for Northern Marianas students," said Sablan. "I commend each of the 22 students who participated in this year's contest. This year's essays highlighted Asian and Pacific American issues that are of particular importance to our youth, and the ideas that they have to inspire the community to take action,"

Mendoza wrote an essay titled "The Problem with 'Linguistic Racism.'" Mendoza's essay discusses the challenges that AAPI individuals face when English is not their first language.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows, from left, high school winner Aleia Hofschneider Santos, middle school winner Mikaehla Paige Reyes Mendoza, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan. Congressman Sablan presented the winners with congressional commendations and prints of their essays as published in the Congressional Record.

"English is one of the main global languages spoken in many places," Mendoza stated in her essay, "However, there are still people that struggle with English. AAPIs struggle with English because it may not be their first language. They are considered non-native English speakers. These speakers can find themselves being judged and even penalized for the way their English sounds."

Mendoza calls for cultural awareness and respect to stop linguistic racism. She writes, "The best way to combat linguistic racism is to continue to stay in school, learn about different cultures, and to be a role model to others. We all speak different languages and it is important to embrace the diversity that we have in our islands. We can also be digitally

See MENDOZA on Page 4

HANA HEALTH MASSAGE

SERVICES OFFERED

- Body (Oil) Massage
- Foot Massage (with medicine)
- Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
- NEW! Table Shower and Body Scrub Spa - Soon in San Antonio Location

SPECIAL PROMO
60 minutes Body Massage $20

Locations:
- MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
- NEW location → San Antonio, across Afetna Super Market

10:00AM TO 12:00AM • Call HANA: 789-7778

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP. Established October 2011 COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

Catch up with Immunizations

- Routine Immunization helps protect against 14 diseases
- Find out if your child is up to date
- Schedule an appointment to catch up with Immunizations

Call the CHCC Immunization Program at
(670) 236-8745 (Saipan)
(670) 433-9233 (Tinian)
(670) 532-9461 (Rota)

This project was supported by Grant 6 NH23IP-922587-03-01 CFDA93.268 from CDC and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and necessarily represent the official views of CDC or HHS.

WWW.CHCC.HEALTH @CNMIPOPHEALTH @CHCCMICAH

The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

enterprise rent-a-car
www.enterprise.com | Email: reservations@ehiglobalsaipan.com
Safe travels
Corporate Office (Airport Road) (670) 288-4400 • Hotline: (671) 888-6055 • (670) 285-4405

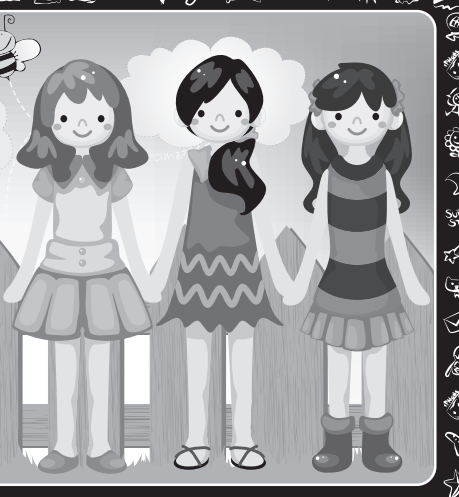
Toys & Clothes for children ages 0 to 10

Lots of new arrivals!

LOLLIPOPS
BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Monday - Saturday: 9am - 6pm
Sunday: 10am - 4pm
TEL. 234-8040
Like us on Facebook

a boutique for Tween Girls ages 8-12

Dresses, Tees, skirts, jeans, shorts, and Accessories!



Lots of new arrivals!

Girl Talk
FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Poki Yaki
Monday-Thursday: 10am to 4pm
Friday-Saturday: 10am to 5pm. Closed on Sunday
TEL. 233-8050
Like us on Facebook

2 TVs stolen from Mt. Carmel Cathedral

One or more individuals broke into the Carmel Cathedral in Susupe last Wednesday, May 25, and stole two of the church's flat-screen televisions, according to a Department of Public Safety news release.

The statement said that DPS received a call on May 25, 2022, around 5:45am about a burglary and theft incident at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

At the scene, the caller told police that he had arrived with another individual to open the church earlier that morning and that's when he noticed that a window had been left open but he did not think anything of it until the other individual mentioned that the TVs were missing. They then called for police assistance.

Upon further inspection, it was found that two flat-screen TVs had been removed from their mounts and missing. One of the TVs was later found outside the church already damaged. The second TV was not found and is considered missing.

DPS said this case is under further investigation. It would also like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing or when being offered a flat-screen TV from any individual.

DPS encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. If you wish to remain anonymous call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CNMI joins nation in prayer for Uvalde victims

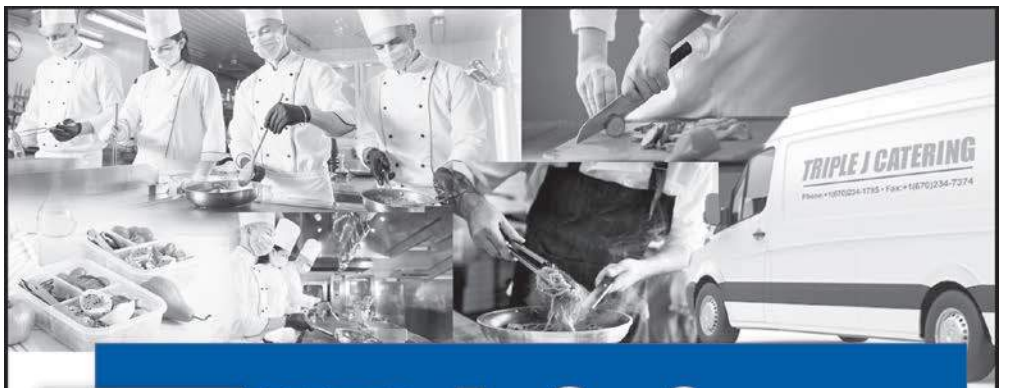
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres on Thursday issued the following statement on the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas this week:

"The CNMI joins the rest of the country in sharing in the pain and anguish of all those who were injured and affected by the senseless acts of violence in Uvalde, Texas. We join the nation in mourning the loss of the 21 victims, a majority of whom were just children. This tragedy has [caused] unimaginable loss, and we also extend our thoughts and prayers to all the wounded...

"On behalf of my family and the entire Commonwealth, we send our deepest prayers for the victims, their families and friends, and all those affected by this tragedy. May our country come together to prevent devastations like this from happening again." ***(PR)***

ARMATECH
Generator Installer and Repairer
Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday



Customers First
TRIPLE J
we are hiring
Join our amazing team!
Triple J Saipan Catering is now accepting applications for the following positions:
- Kitchen Supervisor
- Catering Supervisor
- Cafeteria Supervisor
- Cafeteria Service Crew
- Line Cook
- Kitchen Helper
- Delivery Driver

Apply in person: Triple J Corporate Office
Email Your Resume: hrtjsaipan@triplejsaipan.com
APPLY NOW!
Triple J offers competitive benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CONGRATULATIONS,
CLASS OF 2022!
GOVERNOR RALPH DLG. TORRES, FIRST LADY DIANN T. TORRES, AND FAMILY

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL

CCC proceeds with meeting; skirts IPI topic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioners held their monthly meeting yesterday, but did not touch any issue involving Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC due to the federal court's issuance of a temporary restraining order against CCC.

The board also removed from the meeting's agenda CCC executive director Andrew Yeom's report, which was expected to touch on the IPI subject. Yeom was also not allowed to participate in the meeting.

CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero said the commission received late Monday afternoon the TRO issued by the U.S. District Court for the NMI preventing the commission from continuing with its plan to make administrative action for an evidentiary hearing in the cases against IPI.

"We are complying with that order," DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said the Office of the Attorney General and the IPI counsel appeared before the District Court on Wednesday and the court extended the TRO.

In the meantime, the chairman said, they were advised by their counsel that they're supposed to cancel this meeting but they decided to go ahead with it since they are just having their regular monthly meeting and not as part of an administrative hearing.

"We are barred from discussing that, [which is] why all of the sections involving IPI will not be discussed today," DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said, they will however, continue to meet for their regulatory mandate as they are required to have at least once a month.

The chairman said there are many reasons for that TRO but that he would rather not discuss it.

The commissioners then discussed CCC's opening up its bank account. They later held an executive session.

Last Monday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted IPI's request for a TRO to prevent CCC from holding a hearing on May 24 and 25, 2022, to revoke IPI's exclusive casino license. Manglona later extended the TRO against CCC to allow CCC to properly respond to IPI's complaint against the commission.

Manglona noted, among other things, that IPI anticipates receiving $150 million in financing before the end of May to make payments due to the CCC and other creditors to resume its operations.

OAG

From Page 1

other premium class travel for himself and/or first lady Diann T. Torres.

The case also alleges one count of contempt for failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan said the charges follow months of thorough investigation by the Office of the Attorney General Investigative Division.

The judge handling the case, judge pro tempore Alberto E. Tolentino, has yet to rule on the motion made by the OAG to disqualify Torres' counsels: Viola Alepuyo and Anthony Aguon.

Last Tuesday, after hearing the arguments of both parties and reviewing dozens of pages of arguments in support and in opposition to the motion, Tolentino took the matter under advisement and said he would soon issue a written order.

Upon concluding last Tuesday's hearing, Tolentino said he will rule on the motion before the case's evidentiary hearing on Tuesday, May 31.

Torres did not appear at the hearing but was represented by Alepuyo, Aguon, and Matthew Holley.

SENATE

From Page 1

Before voting, DeLeon Guerrero mentioned Holl's statement during Super Typhoon Yutu when Holl allegedly poked fun at a veteran with respect to donations for Rota.

"I saw your actions regarding veterans and I am a mother of a veteran. I have to tell you that it deeply pained me that you mocked a veteran, which is one of the priority target population of any workforce system," the senator said.

Holl said she does not even remember making any offensive statement to any veteran.

"So I would like to at least be reminded, please, because if I said something that offended you, I really apologize if I offended you or the veteran. I apologize if I did," Holl said.

She stated that she may have said something as a joke or that she did not know that a statement would offend the veteran or anyone. "I apologize humbly if I offended anybody," Holl said.

After the voting, Sen. DeLeon Guerrero congratulated Holl and hugged her.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chaired by Sen. Francisco Q., Cruz (R-Tinian) recommended the confirmation of the four appointees.

Cruz said the committee has examined all pertinent documents related to the appointment of Cepeda, Stewart, Tomokane, and the re-appointment of Holl.

Cruz said the committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the appointees that are included in their report.

The senator said that, based on the overall assessment of the appointees' credentials, experiences, testimonies, goals for the agency, and other relevant issues considered, the committee is convinced that they have the qualification and leadership skills to serve as members of the CEC and Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees.

Regarding Cepeda's confirmation, there are now three commissioners representing Saipan. There are still two vacant positions for Saipan.

There are two Rota commissioners. For Tinian there is one commissioner and one vacant position.

CHINA

From Page 1

A draft of the agreement obtained by The Associated Press shows that China wants to train Pacific police officers, team up on "traditional and non-traditional security" and expand law enforcement cooperation.

China also wants to jointly develop a marine plan for fisheries—which would include the Pacific's lucrative tuna catch—increase cooperation on running the region's internet networks, and set up cultural Confucius Institutes and classrooms. China also mentions the possibility of setting up a free trade area with the Pacific nations.

China's move comes as Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a 20-person delegation begin a visit to the region this week.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price expressed concern Wednesday about China's intentions, saying Beijing might use the proposed accords to take advantage of the islands and destabilize the region.

"We are concerned that these reported agreements may be negotiated in a rushed, nontransparent process," Price told reporters. He warned that China "has a pattern of offering shadowy, vague deals with little transparency or regional consultation in areas related to fishing, related to resource management, development, development assistance and more recently even security practices."

Price added that agreements that include sending Chinese security officials to the nations "could only seek to fuel regional international tensions and increase concerns over Beijing's expansion of its internal security apparatus to the Pacific."

Wang is visiting seven of the countries he hopes will endorse the "Common Development Vision"—the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea.

Wang is also holding virtual meetings with the other three potential signatories—the Cook Islands, Niue and the Federated States of Micronesia. He is hoping the countries will endorse the pre-written agreement as part of a joint communique after a May 30 meeting in Fiji he is holding with the foreign ministers from each of the 10 countries.

MENDOZA

From Page 2

responsible and respectful in speaking to others online.

Santos wrote an essay titled "Color," where describes her encounters with racial discrimination and the issue of hate crimes against Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

"Peach is the name of the crayon shade that my classmates always used in their portraits when I was in kindergarten at Chinook Elementary in Washington from 2008-2009. I was told that Tinian tanned skin was too dark to be using Peach, and that I should try using the dark brown crayon, called Chocolate," Santos wrote.

"There are still many memories I cherish despite the challenges we faced during our stay in the U.S., but I will never forget the events of that fateful fall day, nor will my Mom or Dad. I will never forget the look on my parents' faces as they were told to exit the vehicle, nor will I forget how scared I was when I saw them pointing guns at all of our faces. It was pure, unadulterated hatred that the Peach-colored man felt toward not my family, but the color of our skin that caused it to happen."

In reflecting on how the community can take action against racial discrimination and acts of hate toward Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, Santos wrote, "I hope to inspire our community to take action against racial discrimination and acts of hate by taking three simple steps. First, I encourage all victims and witnesses of AAPI discrimination to not only speak out about what they've experienced, but against prejudice of any kind. In this pursuit, I implore others to speak loudly about the deeply damaging and disheartening effects of racial discrimination when they feel that they are ready to. Most importantly, I ask that we all try to speak proudly of one another and what we have accomplished despite all the obstacles. Imagining the power that our community could hold in taking those steps fills me with a deep sense of faith in a better future for all of our families- no matter the color of our skin."

This is the second year that the Marianas congressional office has hosted the API Heritage Month Essay Contest.

Mendoza and Santos's essays were published on the May 18, 2022 edition of the Congressional Record and can be read online at https://sablan.house.gov/apiec. ***(PR)***

DEFENSE

From Page 1

making a decision based on the evidence and testimonies.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan took the motion under advisement and said the court would reconvene today at 8:30am.

Seelam, during her oral motion, explained that the court has heard throughout the course of the four-day trial enough testimonies from witnesses saying that the traffic light was green when Fabia's truck passed through the intersection on the day of the accident, Feb 1, 2021.

"A few have said that the light was red and several others said were green. The question that the court is faced with now, in addressing the motion for judgment of acquittal, is whether any reasonable juror or jury, after hearing the evidence presented, could find Mr. Fabia guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and the answer to that is no, because of how high the standard of 'beyond a reasonable doubt' is. Throughout the trial we had the opportunity to hear from several witnesses who, under oath, testified that the light going southbound for Fabia was green before he entered the intersection," she said.

The defense referenced testimony made by Fabia himself, his companion, Cristopher Lucero, and others who were also driving through the same intersection at the time of the accident, Jonathan Broncan and Wilfredo Lubinal.

Seelam said the court has also seen video evidence and photo evidence that proved that the light was green right after Fabia's truck passed through the intersection and collided with the Honda Ridgeline.

The lawyer also argued that there was no clear surveillance footage presented that could answer what color the southbound light was or what color the northbound left turn traffic light was.

"What we're left with is reasonable doubt. No reasonable juror can find, based on the evidence and testimonies heard, that they are convinced that they have an abiding conviction that the light Fabia passed through prior to the collision, was red. That is simply not possible. For that reason, I would ask the court to enter to order a judgment of dismissal of count 3," she said.

Using the same arguments, Seelam said the court should dismiss the charges of homicide by vehicle because for the jury to find Fabia guilty of homicide by vehicle, the defendant must be found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of at least one of the traffic violations, either traffic light violation or reckless driving.

However, Seelam said no evidence was presented to support the charge of reckless driving.

Lastly, Seelam said, the jury must also find that Fabia's action of running through the red light was the proximate cause of the death of Raju Bhai.

"Not cause of the accident, but the cause of death," she said.

Seelam argued that it has been undisputed that the victim was sitting in the bed of the truck holding a generator and it was the ejection from the pickup truck at the time the collision occurred, and the injury from the ejection, that caused the victim's death.

The Honda Ridgeline driver, Quin Manglona, testified himself that the only injury he sustained was a gash on his head.

"That would lead any reasonable juror to believe that if the victim has been inside the cab, like the law says he should have been, and he was not being used to secure a generator, he would have been alive," Seelam said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the collision that took place last February 2021 killed Raju Bhai. His companion on the truck bed, Rommel Irang, sustained serious injuries. Fabia and Lucero were unscathed in the accident.

Fabia was arrested a day after for traffic signal violations, false reports, and homicide by vehicle. DPS officers allege that Fabia and Lucero lied to police and were at fault in the accident.

US FLAGS & CNMI FLAGS

20% off

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS

25% off

PLASTIC HOUSEWARES

25% off

BEDSHEETS & COMFORTERS

25% off

SHOWER CURTAINS

25% off

AREA RUGS

25% off

MENS TEE SHIRTS & SHORTS

25% off

LADIES BLOUSES & SHORTS

25% off

LADIES BRAS

25% off

BOYS TEE SHIRTS

25% off

GIRLS BLOUSES & SHORTS

25% off

HANDBAGS & WALLETS

25% off

SHOES & SANDALS

25% off

JOETEN'S MEMORIAL DAY SALE

SATURDAY TO MONDAY, MAY 28 TO 30, 2022

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20#

$12.99

US PORK SPARERIBS 20#

$23.99

US BLACK ANGUS GROUND BEEF CHUCK BRICK 1#

2 FOR $10

CHUCKWAGON HOTDOGS 12oz

99¢

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz

$1.69

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50#

$37.99

SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#

$25.99

SEOKSU WATER 20/500ml

$5.98 /cs.

HAWAIIAN SUN DRINKS 12pk

$7.99

SHOP LOCAL, SHOP JOETEN

SHOP NOW

See store for more details.

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

CACIQUE CHORIZO BEEF 9oz

$3.75

CACIQUE CHORIZO PORK 9oz

$1.99

LA MEXICANA SALSA MEDIUM 16oz

$3.99

LA MEXICANA HOT SALSA 16oz

$3.99

LA MEXICANA MILD SALSA 16oz

$3.99

TORTILLALAND UNCKD TORTILLA 20oz

$3.49

LA TORTILLA WHT CORN TORTILLA 8c

$3.39

SUAVITEL FS MORNING SUN 18CT

$1.29

SUPERSOFT NAPKINS 160ct WHT

$1.59

REYNOLDS CUT RITE WAX PPR 75sqft

$2.29

REYNOLDS WRAP 200sf

$11.99

AXXION PLASTIC CUP 16z 50ct CLR

99¢

GLADWARE CONT MINI ROUND 4z/8ct

$3.99

JOY ICE CREAM CONE CAKE CUP 24ct

$2.59

RONZONI THIN SPAGHETTI 16oz

$1.99

JELLO PUDDING CHOC PIE 3.9oz

$1.19

SMUCKER'S JELLY STRAWBERRY 12oz

$2.99

AJINOMOTO CRISPY FRY SPCY 62g
AJINOMOTO CRISPY FRY GARLIC 62g

59¢ ea.

HEINZ YELLOW MUSTARD 14oz.

$2.29

KOOL AID (ASSTD FLAVORS)

$2.99 ea.

Joeten Shopping Center

DISCLAIMER: Although Joeten strives to ensure that all pricing information on this ad is accurate, occasionally an error may occur and goods may be mispriced. We reserve the right to correct all typographical and pictorial errors.

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA MasterCard

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

Wanted:
CORRESPONDENTS

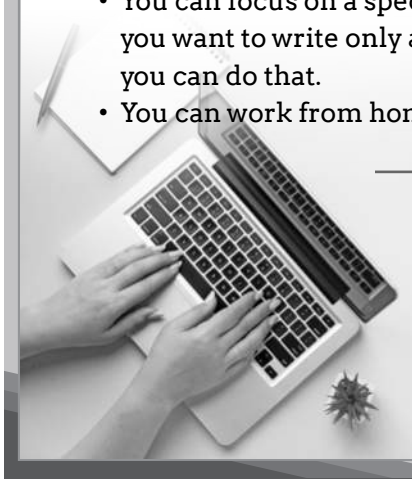
Saipan Tribune is looking for correspondents who will be assisting the newspaper with its news or sports coverages, or will assist the Advertising Section with advertorial write-ups.

Correspondents are paid per word and photo, so you essentially control your own time and the subject of your coverage.

The only requirements are good writing skills and flexibility in work hours. Knowledge in creative writing, newswriting, or sports writing is a plus.

Advantages:

- This can be a side gig. You can continue working at your main job and be a correspondent on the side. Additional income! Yay!
- You control your work hours.
- You choose which story to write about.
- You can focus on a specific subject if you wish. For example, if you want to write only about baseball or the environment, you can do that.
- You can work from home. No need to time-in or out at the office.



For those who would like to apply, you may email your application letter and résumé to editor@saipantribune.com or give them to Mia Carreon at HR on the second floor of the JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan. A sample of your previous written work will be helpful.

WORLD RESORT SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: May 24, 2022
CLOSE DATE: June 7, 2022
POSITION: Cook
SALARY: $7.74 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of formal training/education in culinary arts preferred. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Ten (10) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 24, 2022
CLOSE DATE: June 7, 2022
POSITION: Information Technology Clerk
SALARY: $12.08 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years of experience in computer support preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 24, 2022
CLOSE DATE: June 7, 2022
POSITION: Prim
SALARY: $7.35 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two (2) years experience with entertainment and activity is preferred. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children. Six (6) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: May 24, 2022
CLOSE DATE: June 7, 2022
POSITION: Lifeguard
SALARY: $7.63 per hour

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Fifteen (15) positions are currently available.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office. For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 575/576/266.

Natibu Division of US Naval Sea Cadets holds first drill

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has announced that the Natibu Division of the CNMI held its first weekend drill on Saipan last Saturday, May 21, 2022. USNSCC is open to all youth years 11 to 18 holding U.S. citizenship or green card. The middle school youth join the Naval League Cadet Core and high school youth join the Naval Sea Cadet Core.

Families and youth who are interested in joining the Sea Cadets should place an inquiry online at the Sea Cadet website https://www.seacadets.org/join and follow the link "Become a Cadet." There are very limited slots left, and applicants may be placed on a wait list.

This past Saturday, the newly formed Natibu Division of 25 cadet recruits were led by commanding officer Ray Alvarez and executive officer Regino Celis Jr. for their first monthly drill at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base. Cadets were issued Natibu Division shirts as part of an alternative uniform. The morning drill portion included basic military training following the traditions of the U.S. Navy, close order drills, and maritime nomenclature.

In the afternoon, cadets learned basic marlinspike seamanship. Each cadet was issued a length of line for knot-tying practice. Classroom training was followed by dockside training at the Smiling Cove Marina to learn about the parts of a boat, tying a cleat hitch, and more nautical language.

Saipan Sailing School also hosted a sailing excursion for a select few cadets. Cadets learned how to rig a sailboat and went sailing for a few hours in the lagoon.

Activities planned for the summer include recruit training, a weeklong traditional maritime heritage hosted by the Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc.'s master navigators, an America Sailing Association certification through Saipan Sailing School, and many other challenging programs.

The Navy Sea Cadet Corps is a federally chartered nonprofit civilian youth training organization sponsored by the Navy League and supported by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. It is described as a regimented youth program similar to JROTC but with a focus on seagoing services.

The program builds leaders of character. Goals are to develop interested in seamanship and seagoing skills, instill principles of good citizenship and strong moral character, demonstrate the value of a substance-free lifestyle and expose cadets to the prestige of a military or merchant marine career.

To inquire or support the program, contact Ray Alvarez at (670) 989-7266 or Reno Celis at (670) 483-5674. For more info about Saipan Sailing School, contact Capt. Dave Johansen at (670) 483-7901. ***(PR)***

CONGRATULATIONS! GCA FACEBOOK PAGE

Grace Christian Academy extends a heartfelt congratulation to Julie Muña (GCA, Class of 2014; Seattle University, B.S. Biology) and Alyssa Jade Nuñez (GCA, 2017; Regent University, B.S. Biophysical Sciences) who were both recently accepted into the 'Imi Ho'ola Post-Baccalaureate Program at the John A. Burns School of Medicine (University of Hawaii).

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Tri-Marianas Group, Inc intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

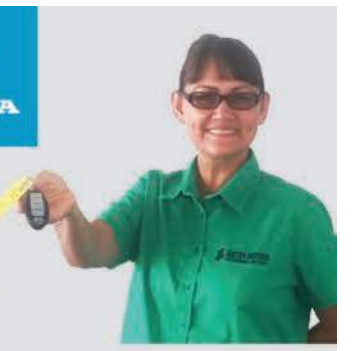
Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 502812, Saipan MP 96950
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Tri-Marianas Group, Inc.
PO Box 502812, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No.: (670) 235-2734

Premium PRE-OWNED CARS

NISSAN · Ford · KIA · HONDA



MONA MENGLOI
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

QUALITY · SELECTION · LOW PRICES

$12,995
2017 KIA RIO LX
STOCK # H6034827, FWD, 4CYL, Automatic,
Est. Mileage: 22,888, Color: BLUE

$14,995
2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV
STOCK # FC475899 FWD, 4 CYL 2.5L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 44,069, Color: SILVER

$18,600
2020 NISSAN VERSA S
STOCK # LL918897, FWD, 4-CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 7,340, Color: GRAY

$19,995
2019 NISSAN SENTRA S
STOCK # KY206649, FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.8 Liter, Automatic,
CVT w/Xtronic, Est. Mileage: 29,969, Color: GRAY

$20,995
2020 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # L7050251, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26,057, Color: GOLD

$20,995
2020 NISSAN SENTRA S
STOCK #LY248996, FWD, 4CYL AUTO
Est. Mileage: 5,690, Color: SILVER

$22,995
2020 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # L7048353, FWD, 4-Cyl, Auto
Est. Mileage: 23128, Color: BLUE

$22,995
2019 HONDA CIVIC LX
STOCK # KE040804, FWD, 4 CYL, MT 6 Speed
Est. Mileage: 17,528, Color: SILVER

$23,995
2019 HONDA HR-V SPORT
STOCK # KM701264, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 32,888, Color: SILVER

$24,995
2020 KIA SPORTAGE FWD
STOCK # L7669997, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 28,595, Color: BRONZE

$25,995
2015 KIA FORTE EX
STOCK # F5369436, 1.8 LITER ENGINE
Est. Mileage: 66, 354, Color: BLUE

$25,995
2021 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # M7130276, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 24,988, Color: GRAY

$26,995
2020 NISSAN ROUGE SPORT S
STOCK # LW270290, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 17,421, Color: BLACK

$27,995
2016 TOYOTA SIENNA LE
STOCK # G5695907, FWD, V6, Auto
Est. Mileage: 35,637, Color: WHITE

WAS $28,995

NOW **$27,995**
2019 HONDA CIVIC HB
STOCK # KU228086, FWD, 4CYL, AUTO,
Est. Mileage: 16468, Color: RALLY RED

$28,995
2017 FORD F-150 REG CAB
STOCK #HKC68426, RWD, 6CYL, Auto
Mileage: 15,888, Color: WHITE

$31,995
2022 HONDA CIVIC SPORT
STOCK #NH507870, FWD 4 CYL - 2.0 L
Est. Mileage: 3,536, Color: BLUE

$34,995
2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
LIMITED BLACK EDITION
STOCK # GS134358, FWD, 3.4 L 6CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 16,480, Color: BLACK

CALL FOR DETAILS
2018 FORD TRANSIT 350 MR
STOCK # JKA83069, XL, RWD, V6, Flex Fuel
Est. Mileage: 22,379, Color: WHITE

CALL FOR DETAILS
2017 FORD TRANSIT
STOCK # HKB27013, RWD, V6, Ecoboost, Twin Turbo
Est. Mileage: 54,249, Color: SILVER

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 5 PM · SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist. Some conditions apply.

Like us on Facebook

JOETEN CUSTOMER CHECKLIST

FREE OIL CHANGES FOR A YEAR · FREE 24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE · FREE 24 HOUR BASIC TOWING SERVICE · FREE SHUTTLE RIDES · 48 HOUR VEHICLE EXCHANGE

Study: Oldest Marianas settlements dated to 2,755-2,490 years ago

Ancient DNA extracted from two sites in the region reveals the earliest settlement dates in the Marianas, according to the results of a new study that will be presented today at the American Memorial Park theater.

The study, called "Ancient DNA Confirms Biological and Cultural Continuities in the Marianas for more than 2,500 Years," will be presented by Rosalind Hunter-Anderson and Joanne Eakin starting at 7pm, according to a Facebook post of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

The council's summary of the study states that the study of ancient DNA from the Naton Beach site in Guam and the Anaguan site on Saipan reveals the earliest settlement dates in the Marianas (some 2,755-2,490 years before the present) "and origins in Island Southeast Asia of Unai (Pre-Latte Period) settlers and their Latte Period descendants."

Genomic analysis allows for the identification of family groups and shows strong continuities in the cultural practices of matrilocality (husband comes to live in wife's household) and the tendency for close relatives to be buried near one another, it added. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Marianas marks 30 years of partnership with Asiana

Today marks 30 years of partnership between the Marianas and Asiana Airlines, the flagship carrier of South Korea.

Asiana Airlines made its inaugural flight to Saipan in the Marianas on May 27, 1992, as South Koreans began travelling internationally in increasing numbers. The tropical weather and unspoiled nature of the islands was appealing, along with the relatively short flight time of four hours from Seoul.

"Asiana Airlines is one of the highest rated airlines in the world, and the Marianas is extremely privileged to have shared a strong partnership with them over the last three decades," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Asiana has been instrumental in growing South Korea from a small, exploratory source market for the Marianas in 1992 to our largest source market today. In addition, they facilitate strong business partnerships between South Korea and the Marianas and have made their own significant investments in our destination. They bring our peoples together, and for all this, we celebrate 30 years of partnership and look forward to many more years of working together."

Asiana was established in 1988 and flies to 74 cities around the world with an 81-plane fleet. With the reboot of international flights to Saipan suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, Asiana now operates two flights a week as the only full-service carrier from Seoul-Incheon to Saipan. The airline also flew direct flights from Busan to Saipan prior to the pandemic. Iakopo noted there are plans for Asiana to add more flights in the near future.

On May 27, 2007, Asiana also launched its first daytime flights to the Marianas four times a week, reflecting growing demand in South Korea for the Marianas. The airline's parent company, Kumho Asiana, also acquired LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, reaffirming its commitment to the Marianas tourism industry. *(MVA)*

Water service interruption on Beach Road in Susupe

There will be a water service interruption for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Beach Road in Susupe from the Winchell's Donuts Susupe building north to the intersection near the Joeten Kiyu Public Library from Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 8am to Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 6am.

This will allow CUC's contractor for the Sewer Lift Station Renovation Project to cut and cap a 6-inch waterline that is currently in the way of the new A-6 Sewer Lift Station discharge alignment located across Saipan World Resort fronting the former Aiko's Ramen building in Susupe. Customers should expect restoration of water services soon after. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200099

ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE PARKS AND FACILITIES RENOVATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Office (PAO) are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Mayor's Office Parks and Facilities Renovation, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on **Friday, May 13, 2022** at the CNMI Public Assistance Office (CNMI PAO), Office of the Governor, Marina Heights II, Suite 303 Puerto Rico, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained in the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70.30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference on **May 31, 2022** at **9:00 AM ChST**, at the project site in Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project must be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing by e-mail: info@pa.gov.mp on or before, **June 03, 2022** to the Public Assistance Office, Office of the Governor. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200099: Rota Mayor's Office Parks and Facilities Renovation"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan no later than **9:00 AM ChST, June 13, 2022**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notice of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:00 AM, ChST, June 13, 2022**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 13, 2022** and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents received no later than **June 21, 2022.** Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, Located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, at **9:00 AM, ChST, June 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:00 AM, ChST, on June 13, 2022.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be Two Hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from other person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-340-725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to wave any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200100

ROTA MAYOR'S OFFICE BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT RENOVATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Public Assistance Office (PAO) are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Mayor's Office Buildings and Equipment Renovation, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on **Friday, May 13, 2022** at the CNMI Public Assistance Office (CNMI PAO), Office of the Governor, Marina Heights II, Suite 303 Puerto Rico, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained in the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70.30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current
U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference on **May 31, 2022** at **1:00 PM** ChST, at the project site in Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project must be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing by e-mail: info@pa.gov.mp on or before, **June 03, 2022** to the Public Assistance Office, Office of the Governor. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB22-GOV-PA-MOR-42200100: Rota Mayor's Office Buildings and Equipment Renovation"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services located at the Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan no later than **9:30 AM ChST, June 13, 2022**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notice of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement Services no later than **9:30 AM, ChST, June 13, 2022**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 13, 2022**, and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents received no later than **June 21, 2022**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement Services, Horiguchi Bldg. Ground Floor, 123 Koppa Di Oru & Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, at **9:30 AM, ChST, June 22, 2022**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:30 AM, ChST, on June 13, 2022**..

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other

surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be Two Hundred dollars ($200.00) per day, and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from other person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-340- 725(a).

• **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• **Contingent Fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to wave any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Francisco C Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

JUNE 17 - 25, 2022 | www.northernmarianas2022.com

PLATINUM

JOETEN DAIDAI FOUNDATION

GALLERIA DFS

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

GOLD

docomo pacific · IT&E · FISHGUYZ SCUBA & CHARTER · LSG Sky Chefs · UER

SILVER

Mobil · NMTECH · Bank of Guam · SHADED RENTALS

BRONZE

AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN • CHONG'S CORPORATION
FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK • GRAND VRIO RESORT SAIPAN
HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY • ISLANDER RENT A CAR • MATSON
MICRONESIAN AIR CARGO SERVICES • SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.
SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC. • STAR MARIANAS AIR
HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SPORTSMANSHIP

Cepeda Tent Rental • EST Rental
Hwang Jae Corporation • Kalayaan, Inc.
Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. • RNV Construction
Saipan Shipping Company, Inc. • Tokio Marine Pacific Insurance

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 105
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

There's nothing for Biden to walk back on defending Taiwan

President Joe Biden's remark Monday about a U.S. military response should China invade Taiwan was no gaffe and didn't deserve to be walked back by his aides. Biden knew exactly what he was saying. He stated it three different ways at a news conference as Japan's prime minister stood beside him. Despite all his previous malaprops and fumbled syntax, in this case, Biden said exactly what needed to be said, and what the world needed to hear.

U.S. national security and global security are one in the same. The isolationism embraced by a fringe group of congressional Republicans represents the kinds of misguided thinking that encouraged Adolf Hitler to march across Europe and Japan to bomb Pearl Harbor, wrongly assuming there was no one to stand in their way. The United States must never again be perceived as a reluctant hand-wringer on the world stage.

Biden's predecessor spent most of his term insulting U.S. allies, weakening NATO and pulling back from America's global leadership role. Russian leader Vladimir Putin felt emboldened to meddle in Ukraine and challenge the United States militarily over international waters. President Donald Trump repeatedly praised Putin's boldness.

China constructed a major naval outpost in the South China Sea, asserted territorial rights and began threatening international shipping lanes. Beijing imposed its dictatorial will on Hong Kong. Trump responded with praise for Chinese President Xi Jinping's assertiveness. A Fox News interviewer finally felt compelled in December to interrupt Trump's praise of Xi and interject: "He's a killer."

Biden's remarks came at precisely the right moment to let superpower leaders know that there are limits to U.S. patience. Putin met with the full fury of U.S. military weaponry and technology during his invasion of Ukraine, losing entire tank battalions, scores of military aircraft and Russia's flagship guided missile cruiser in the Black Sea.

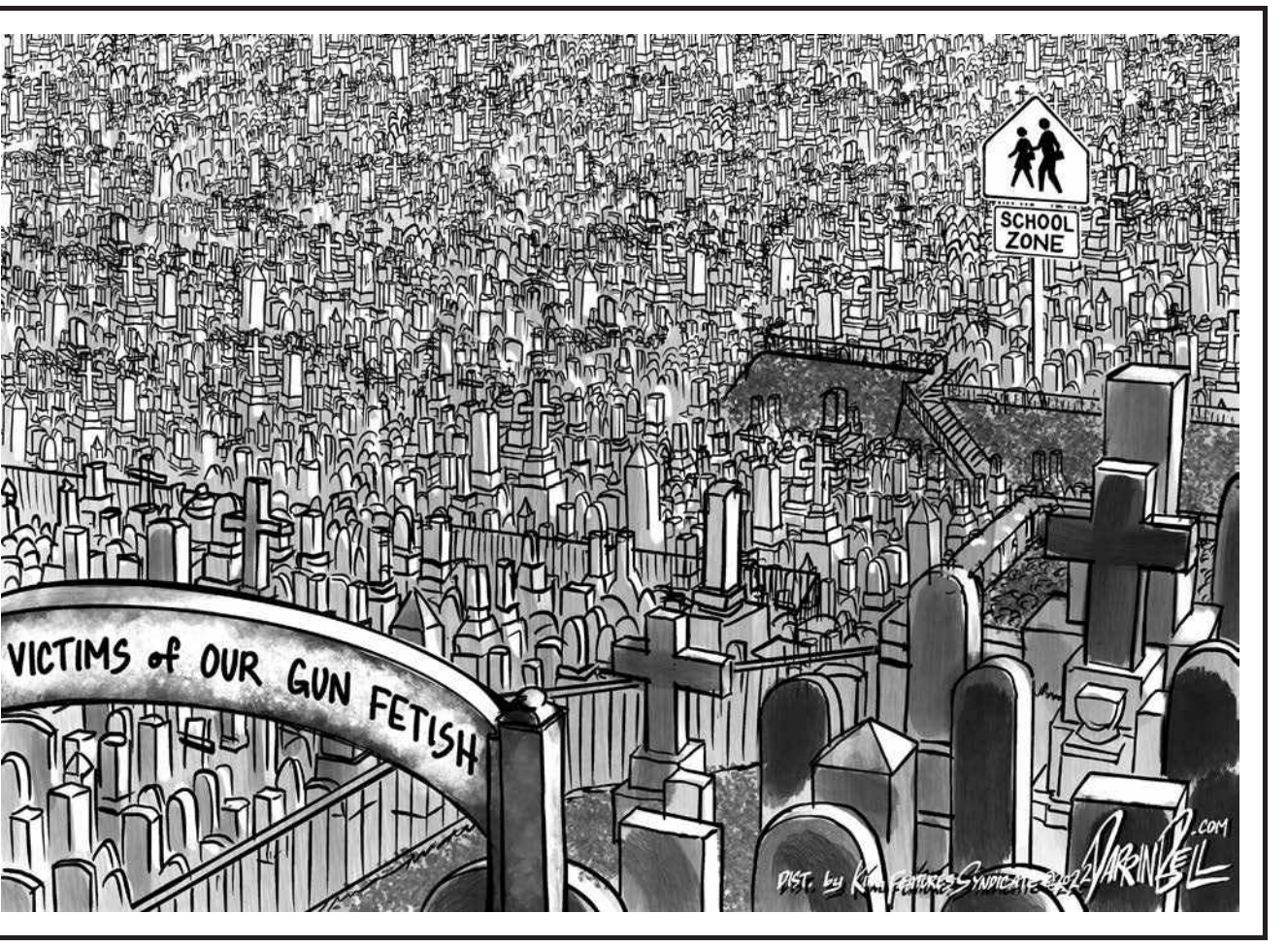
Biden left it to Ukrainians to fight on the ground—as Taiwanese certainly would do to defend their territory. But if there were any doubts before by Putin and Xi about the damage U.S. weaponry and technology can inflict, they now fully understand the dangers of challenging U.S. resolve.

Having once publicly supported Putin's invasion, China has fallen silent. Biden recognized in his comments that China has taken an increasingly aggressive posture toward Taiwan, with overflights by military aircraft and challenges to Taiwan's territorial waters. Having seen the consequences Russia suffered, Biden asked rhetorically, "What signal does that send to China about the cost of attempting—attempting to take Taiwan by force?"

Asked if he meant that the United States was prepared to respond militarily, Biden answered without hesitation, "Yes."

Even one of Biden's loudest congressional critics, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., tweeted that Biden's response "was the right thing to say and the right thing to do." There's nothing to be walked back.

© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*



This week's additions to things that can kill you

By GENE COLLIER
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The brains carried around in the human skull are basically wired to avoid unpleasant thoughts, but even the most emotionally stable among us cannot avoid intermittent cognition of the 9,000 things that can kill us at any moment, which for most people does not even include the Pirates.

If you're like me, and God help ya, your mind may have veered in recent days into a dark area, owing to the sudden addition or exacerbation of at least five potential lethalities: monkeypox, Lone Star ticks, Detroit Airport moths, taking a walk and, ever more dangerously, living in a country with more guns than people.

Without objection, or even with, I'll take them in order:

Monkeypox

Though in my view it looks a lot better on a death certificate than COVID or Well-Regulated Militia Fire, you're probably not getting monkeypox, even though in recent weeks it has turned up in 12 countries where it is not endemic. Despite some initial hyper-cautious yammering by Joe Biden, you'd pretty much have to put on a leotard and wrestle someone with exposed monkeypox sores to contract monkeypox. Even then, it's not especially contagious and likely wouldn't be fatal.

The World Health Organization reports that in 92 cases that turned up last week in 12 non-endemic countries, most were in men who have sex with men and were seeking help in sexual care clinics. Further, a London adviser to the WHO described the outbreak as a random event that might be explained by sexual behavior associated with two recent raves in Europe. Interestingly, the WHO uses the same all caps designation, MSM, for men who have sex with men as right wing internet trolls use for the main stream media. Can't men who have sex with men get their own vaguely pejorative acronym?

Lone Star ticks

So designated for the singular star-shaped marking on their backs, a bite from these little buggers can leave you with a meat allergy in a world where life without a periodic PNC Park footlong is hardly worth living. Endemic to Southern states, Lone Star Ticks have been turning up in New York and New Jersey and even here and there in the Midwest, so Pittsburgh would not be out of the question.

Worse, "they kind of hunt you down," disease ecologist Richard S. Ostfeld told Scientific American. "They actually run at you."

Ostfeld stated further that currently, "The United States doesn't have any kind of nationwide active tick surveillance program."

I might be willing to volunteer for a fledgling U.S. Tick Surveillance Corps, but I'd have to see the uniform.

Detroit Airport moths

I couldn't determine why this story emerged only this week but apparently U.S. Customs officials say they successful averted a threat to the country's agriculture system with the discovery in some luggage of a moth that hasn't been detected in this country since 1912.

While there are plenty of identifiable species who've felt like they'd been stuck in the Detroit Airport since 1912, this one turned up in bags inbound from the Philippines last September. Analysis found larvae and pupae that eventually hatched into "very flashy" moths with black bristles.

"This discovery is a testament to the important mission of identifying foreign pests and protecting America's natural resources," the Border Patrol said in a statement.

And you found all of it, right? I'll take your word on that. I have no choice.

Taking a walk

As an avid pedestrian, the news that the simple act of perambulation carries a risk not seen around here in 40 years was especially concerning this week. According to a piece in this space from the Post-Gazette's own Ed Blazina, your chances of getting splattered into the afterlife by a badly operated vehicle on your stress-reducing daily walk went up 11.5% in 2021. In Pennsylvania, it went up 24.4%.

Given the causes for the increase remained pretty much the same—speeding, drinking, distracted driving—you might conclude that Pennsylvania has more than the standard allotment of distracted drunken speeders. Sounds plausible.

Guns

There are more guns out there than people, a fact specific to America, in part because of a peculiar slice of insanity that convinced us we're safer because of it.

The flip side of that insanity has convinced us there are people out there—mostly liberals and Democrats—who are coming to take your guns. The people who are coming to take your guns, as they have for the past 50 years, are doing a terrible, terrible job.

So count your blessings, don't worry so much about the monkeypox, avoid the Lone Star Tick if at all possible, same for the Detroit Airport, and walk inside the mall, wearing Kevlar, of course.

And what happened with those murder hornets anyway?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Economic development improves the quality of life for residents

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By DAVE G. GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dave G. Guerrero is the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority's first economic development manager, a role designed to lead economic development efforts for the Marianas. GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.

Going into the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority as the first economic development manager, my main goal is to pave a path for future investments in the Marianas. When my role was envisioned by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, the council saw a need to have a dedicated person and department that would invite ideal investors willing to partner with the Marianas to meet our needs. They recognized that long-term, quality investment would improve our quality of life on the islands—which I wholeheartedly agree with this vision. When I took this position, it was with the confidence and excitement that this new role could make lasting contributions by improving our way of life for generations to come.

This strategic approach to investing requires that I assess what we have to offer potential investors and how we can be more attractive as a destination. One of my first tasks is to define what economic development means for the Marianas. Most people interpret economic development as attracting only large companies that bring in large construction projects. While this is ideal, as they tend to create more jobs, realistically, economic development usually means smaller, higher quality, targeted projects that help to improve infrastructure, standards of living, overall well-being, education, and job opportunities.

From an outsider's perspective, we have some work to do to beautify the CNMI. Incentives for businesses to improve their properties or address blighted or abandoned buildings will contribute to the overall visual appeal of our islands. Businesses should consider joining GCEA's Marianas Business Pride program, which will focus on commercial beautification. As a community, we should keep in mind an investor's perspective and see where we can make effective improvements.

Another GCEA initiative I support is the development of a Marpi Visitor Center. Everyone loves Marpi, it is a natural location for a visitor center. When I bike through Marpi, I can envision how a visitor center would elevate our visitors' experiences by providing a hub where they can learn about the CNMI, its history, and all the hiking and biking trails one can do on each of the islands. It can also serve as a cultural hub where visitors can directly experience our hospitality and traditions.

Projects like this that provide more attractions for our residents and visitors will promote interisland travel that can spur the economies on each island. The development of more trails for hiking and biking also supports a healthier community. It will encourage us to explore Saipan, Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands and create fundamental opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the islands.

While we move forward, it's important to also learn from our past. We are taught at an early age to respect the ocean and land, and in doing so, it will give us sustenance. During the pandemic we learned a lot about supply chain issues and food shortages. As a region dependent on food imports, we must address our food security—a issue that is vital to our health and well-being. We should find ways to encourage and promote small-scale farming and fishing. Along these lines comes developing soil and water programs that are necessary to produce nutrient-rich foods. Supporting our local farmers and fishermen will reduce our carbon footprint and lessen our dependency on imported food. Let's support our small local producers so they will have the opportunity to supply our community and larger hotel/restaurant operations.

There is so much to do and many issues to address, but these are just some of the ideas that are on my mind.

As I embark on this meaningful work, I want to thank Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, GCEA, my colleagues at the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and the many people I've met (and will meet) for their generous insight and time. The more people I meet and learn about their challenges, the more effective I will become at connecting the right people to collaborate and overcome obstacles, both with investors that are here on island and those that will be. Together we can!

For more information about GCEA's programs, visit cnmieconomy.com, engage with the council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

Mass shooters aren't mentally ill people who suddenly snap. They decide to kill

By MARK FOLLMAN
Los Angeles Times

Mark Follman is the national affairs editor for Mother Jones and author of Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings in America.

In the aftermath of major mass shootings, politicians and pundits depict the killers as crazed monsters and blame mental illness as the fundamental cause. The same story has played out since the horrific massacre May 14 at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, where an 18-year-old allegedly motivated by racist ideology is accused of murdering 10 people. But this misleading narrative is not supported by scientific evidence and is counterproductive to solving America's epidemic of mass shootings.

The claim that mental illness produces such attacks implies that mass shooters are insane, as if they are disconnected from reality and act based on no rational thinking. This goes hand in hand with the common theme that these offenders "snap," which suggests they commit impulsive acts of violence, bursting forth from nowhere. Both explanations are wrong.

Extensive case history shows that mass shooters don't just suddenly break—they decide. They develop violent ideas that stem from entrenched grievances, rage and despair.

Over the last decade, I've studied scores of mass shootings and looked deep into the field of behavioral threat assessment, an emerging method where experts in mental health, law enforcement and other disciplines work together to prevent planned acts of violence.

Extensive case history shows that mass shooters don't just suddenly break—they decide. They develop violent ideas that stem from entrenched grievances, rage and despair. In many cases they feel justified in their actions and regard killing as the sole solution to a problem. They arm themselves and prepare to attack, choosing where and when to strike. Often this is a highly organized and methodical process.

The suspected Buffalo shooter, Payton Gendron of Conklin, New York, spent months becoming radicalized online and readying himself to kill, according to law enforcement authorities and written documents they say Gendron posted online. He acquired weapons and tactical gear, practiced shooting, detailed his ideological hatred of Black people and others, and surveilled intended targets.

Gendron had a history of troubling behavior, according to authorities, including a threat he made last June as a graduating high schooler to commit a murder-suicide. Under New York law, he was taken into custody by state police and given a psychiatric evaluation; the results are not publicly known. Gendron was released within two days, and authorities said he claimed to have been joking with his threatening comments—a form of deception that has figured into other shootings.

In 2018, a deep investigation of 63 rampage shooters conducted by experts with the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit showed that only a quarter of the offenders were known to have been professionally diagnosed with a mental illness of any kind. While it's possible that some suicidal attackers may have gone undiagnosed, only three of the 63 perpetrators, or about 5% of the total examined, had a known psychotic disorder.

Blaming mental illness for mass shootings inflicts a damaging stigma on the millions of people who suffer from clinical afflictions, the vast majority of whom are not violent. Extensive research shows the link between mental illness and violent behavior is small and not useful for predicting violent acts; people with diagnosable conditions such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder are in fact far more likely to be victims than perpetrators of violence.

Yet no person who commits a mass shooting is, in a basic sense, mentally healthy. So if we want to do more to reduce these attacks, we need to better understand the behaviors and circumstances that lead up to them.

Threat assessment experts have found that in a majority of cases warning signs are noticeable to people who are in the orbit of would-be shooters. These don't fulfill any predictive checklist—as the public commonly expects due to the notion of criminal profiling—but compose a set of actions and conditions that indicate potential danger. They also reveal opportunity to intervene.

The warning signs include threatening comments, personal deterioration, patterns of stalking and other aggression, as well as fixating on guns, graphic violence and previous mass shooters. Many perpetrators express a desire for infamy, including Gendron, who allegedly described his own hateful screed as a manifesto and wrote of how livestreaming his attack would help get sensational media coverage.

Threat assessment teams seek to use constructive measures to steer troubled individuals away from violent thinking and planning. That can include fostering better social connections and improving a subject's education, work or living circumstances. Case management often does involve mental health interventions, such as counseling or even a period of hospitalization if necessary.

A clearer picture of Gendron's school and family background has yet to emerge. But as with so many past attacks, the initial case evidence points to a deeper trail of identifiable warning signs and a period of time in which effective intervention may well have been possible.

In a country saturated with firearms that are easy to obtain, mass shootings are a complex problem with no simple solution.

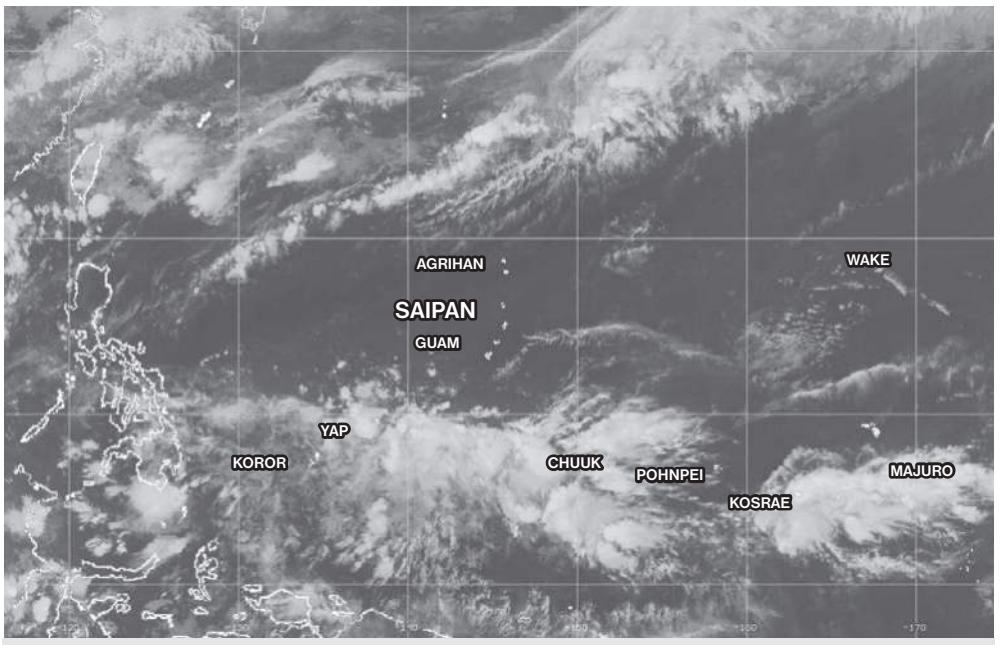
But making mental illness the bogeyman detracts from making progress on stopping these attacks. That's going to take everything we've got: strengthening our nation's gun laws, quashing a surge in violent political extremism, raising cultural awareness of shooter-warning signs—and, yes, investing in a lacking mental health care system to give troubled people the help they may need before it's too late.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny, East southeast wind around 8 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers. East wind 8 to 11 mph.	Mostly sunny, with Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy, with chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy, with A chance of showers.
91º 75º	90º 75º	85º 79º	92º 78º	88º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME:8:13 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers within the Marianas waters. A weakening cluster of showers is seen southwest of the Guam waters. The buoys report combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast swell and southeast wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	31 / 26 °F
Palau	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 24 °F
Yap	PM Thunderstorms	29/ 26 °F
Chuuk	AM Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F
Kosrae	AM Showers	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Saturday	05:46 AM	18:42 PM
Sunday	05:45 AM	18:42 PM
Monday	05:45 AM	18:43 PM
Tuesday	05:45 AM	18:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	03:23	16:01 PM	-
Saturday	03:59	16:51 PM	-
Sunday	04:38	17:42 PM	-
Monday	05:18	18:33 PM	-
Tuesday	06:02	19:26 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	16 / 10 °F
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	36 / 20 °F
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 23 °F
London	Partly Cloudy	20 / 9 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	21 / 15 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	34 / 27 °F
Melbourne	AM Showers	15 / 7 °F
Miami	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
New York	PM Thunderstorms	15 / 19 °F
Osaka	AM Showers	26 / 18 °F
Paris	AM Clouds/PM Sun	23 / 9 °F
Busan	Sunny/Wind	26 / 17 °F
Rome	Cloudy	35 / 20 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	27 / 15 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	17 / 11 °F
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	24 / 13 °F
Tokyo	Rain	22 / 17 °F
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	25 / 17 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
05:16 AM	High Tide	2.06
12:19 PM	Low Tide	0.36
6:42 PM	High Tide	1.75
-	-	-

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 16, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun until May 31, 2022
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Monday & Friday until May 31, 2022
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Monday & Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Monday & Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

TOGETHER-STRONGER

VOTE 2022

FRIENDS AND FAMILY,
YOU ARE INVITED TO
THE CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY 2022 ELECTION

KICK0FF RALLY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

KIDS CORNER

MR. CLOWN
FREE HOT DOGS
FACE PAINTING
KIDS SLIDE & JUMPER

FOOD, DRINKS, AND ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED!

RAFFLE

$1,000 CASH (GRAND PRIZE)
75" SMART TV
LIVE COW
LIVE PIG
ASSORTED PRIZES
(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

MAY 29TH, 2022

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
MINATCHOM ATDAO, ACROSS ADA GYM

CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY

PAID FOR BY CNMI GOP
PO BOX 10001, PMB 1318
SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

AGAPE Christian School

15TH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND GRADUATION CEREMONY

SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

Continue the school's vision and mission to educate, inspire, and change lives

MAY 27, 2022 • 6:00 P.M.

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2022

MIDDLE SCHOOL Graduates

Chen, Jiaxin (Serena)

Wang, Zihan (Jacob)

Zhang, Hannah Qingen

Zhang, Ruth Qinghui

HIGH SCHOOL Graduates

Liu, Liang (Chloe)
Valedictarian
Next Destination
Major in Finance, Pensacola Christian College, Florida,$12,000 Scholarship from Arizona State University, $25,000 Merits Scholarship from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Indiana

Cao, Zhijie (Jason)
Salutatarian
Next Destination
Major in Human Health Bob Jones University, South Carolina $10,000 Scholarship from BJU

Liu, Shuhan (Cherry)
Salutatarian
Next Destination
Major in Nursing Pensacola Christian College, Florida $5,000 Scholarship from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, $9,110 Scholarship from PCC

Bao, Heng (Bobby)
Next Destination
Major in Kinesiology Bob Jones University, South Carolina $10,000 Scholarship from BJU

Chen, Junyu (Eric)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science Bob Jones University, South Carolina $12,000 Scholarship from BJU

Gan, Irene
Next Destination
Major in Business Management Orange Coast College, California

He, Changbin (Samuel)
Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering Bob Jones University, South Carolina $12,500 Scholarship from BJU

He, Linda Ping
Next Destination
Major in Nursing, Pensacola Christian College, Florida $5,550 Scholarship from PCC, $25,795 Scholarship from the University of Texas at Dallas

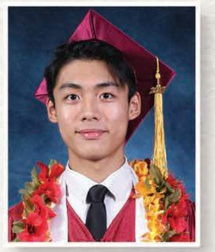
Hu, Hongen (Soloman)
Next Destination
Major in Theatre, Culinary Arts Bob Jones University, South Carolina $12,500 Scholarship from BJU

Huang, Feiyang (Philip)
Next Destination
Major in Cell Biology Bob Jones University, South Carolina $10,000 Scholarship from BJU

Qiu, Kailun (Steve)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science Bob Jones University, South Carolina $12,000 Scholarship from BJU

Song, Jiashen (Martin)
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science Bob Jones University, South Carolina $12,500 Scholarship from BJU

Sun, Yijie (Ruth)
Next Destination
Major in Nursing Pensacola Christian College, Florida $9,110 Scholarship from PCC



Tang, Yi (Eason)
Next Destination
Major in Cyber Security Pensacola Christian College, Florida $9,110 Scholarship from PCC

Tang, Yuxiao (Zoe)
Next Destination
Major in Pre-Law (Criminology) University of California-Irvine, California

Wu, Guilin (Sally)
Next Destination
Major in Graphic Design Pensacola Christian College, Florida $9,110 Scholarship from PCC

Yan, Shenjie (Hannah)
Next Destination
Major in Education Pensacola Christian College, Florida $9,110 Scholarship from PCC

Zhang, Qinghong (Beth)
Next Destination
Major in Nursing Pensacola Christian College, Florida $9,110 Scholarship from PCC

Zhang, Yurong (Ruth)
Next Destination
Major in Studio Art Bob Jones University, South Carolina $10,000 Sholarship from BJU, $12,000 Scholarship from Savahhah College of Art and Design.

Zheng, Wenhao (David)
Next Destination
Major in Physical Therapy Pensacola Christian College, Florida $9,110 Scholarship from PCC

PMB 466, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950-8901 • Telephone: (670)2358540/9898488/9898570 • email: acssaipan@gmail.com • website: www.agapesaipan.com

Tourists join Kensington in beach 'plogging' event

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

About 20 Kensington Hotel Saipan employees and 20 guests gathered Wednesday morning in Pau Pau Beach for an activity called "plogging," where you pick up trash while jogging.

Lindsay Ahn, the corporate social responsibility manager and executive assistant to the CEO of E-Land Group said that Kensington Hotel Saipan employees are not new to volunteering for beach cleanups, but this was the first time they were joined by some of the hotel's guests.

Four members of professional cheerleading squads of Korea Baseball Organization league—Kiryang Park, Jihyun An, Umji Lee, and Danbi Lee—joined Wednesday's event, with the cheerleaders leading the group in stretching exercise at the beach in front of the hotel before going out to pick up trash.

The group cleaned along the shore of Pau Pau Beach and around the Pau Pau Beach Park, covering the total length of the course, which is about 1.5 kilometers.

"We hope [to make] this a frequent ritual. Tourists these days don't just want the simple sightseeing; they want more interactive and meaningful experiences. They also care about the sustainability of the destination they visit. We are glad that we could provide the opportunity for them to truly appreciate the beauty of Saipan's beach and be part of protecting it," said Ahn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kensington Hotel Saipan staff and Korean tourists pose with their banner that says "Saipan Plogging with Kensington Hotel Saipan and cheerleaders" after "plogging," or picking up trash while jogging along Pau Pau Beach and Pau Pau Beach Park.

'Plogging' is a term invented in Sweden back in 2016 and refers to the act of picking up trash and litter while jogging. It is a combination of the Swedish word "plockka upp," which means "to pick up" and the English word jogging.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, CPA-RA-003-17, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Drainage Improvement Project, CPA-RA-003-17"*** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of sewer pipe replacement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport Terminal including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **SEVENTY-FIVE U.S. DOLLARS ($75.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings in the plans.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Maintenance/Custodian Supervisor's office at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Ms. Sharlene Manglona, CPA's Rota Ports Manager at email address sharlene.manglona@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 532-9497, during regular working hours.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Five-Hundred U.S. Dollars ($500.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: May 11, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
Tels: (670) 233-9447, 233-9448, 233-9449, 233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AVAILABILITY OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM

March 31, 2022

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program made possible through the US Department of Treasury. The CNMI was allocated a total amount of ***$4,158,268*** in HAF funds, of which approximately 10% or $400,000 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 90% or $3,758,268, will be used for the following types of assistance for CNMI ***homeowners:***

1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to $25,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
2) Mortgage payment assistance- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to $20,400 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to $1,716 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence
4) Utilities/Broadband Assistance:
   a. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $6,000 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquencies in utility payments)
   b. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $1,500 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future utility payments)
   c. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $600 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to address delinquency in broadband service payments)
   d. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to $150 (not to exceed a period of 90 days) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence (to assist with future broadband service payments

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Homeowners:
- Must be a resident of the CNMI
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least month delinquent) (for mortgage delinquency assistance)
- For those seeking insurance arrears assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

Income Limits

FY 2021 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Islands								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S. Median Income	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S. Median Income	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$79,900	$85,050	$90,500

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting Thursday, March 31, 2022, at the NMHC Main Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhcgov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a first come, first serve basis. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at (670) 234-6866

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

China's foreign minister starts Pacific tour in the Solomons

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and a 20-strong delegation arrived in the Solomon Islands Thursday at the start of an eight-nation tour that comes amid growing concerns about Beijing's military and financial ambitions in the South Pacific region.

Australia was scrambling to counter the move by sending its own Foreign Minister Penny Wong to Fiji to shore up support in the Pacific. Wong has been on the job just five days following an Australian election and had just arrived back Wednesday night from a meeting in Tokyo.

"We need to respond to this because this is China seeking to increase its influence in the region of the world where Australia has been the security partner of choice since the Second World War," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Meanwhile, the Media Association of Solomon Islands was calling on its members to boycott a news conference being held in the capital, Honiara, by Wang and his counterpart from the Solomon Islands, Jeremiah Manele.

That's because only selected media were invited to the event, and the schedule allowed for just a single question to be asked of Wang by China's state-owned broadcaster CCTV.

"Its a tough call to make regarding the media boycott for the press event on Thursday," wrote association president Georgina Kekea on Twitter. "Our protest is for our govt to see our disappointment. They have failed us & they failed to protect #democracy."

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, second left, is met by Solomon Islands government ministers on his arrival in Honiara, Solomon Islands, early Thursday, May 26, 2022. AP

China signed a security pact with the Solomon Islands last month in a move that sent shock waves around the world.

That pact has raised fears that China could send troops to the island nation or even establish a military base there, not far from Australia. The Solomon Islands and China say there are no plans for a base.

A draft document obtained by The Associated Press shows that Wang is hoping to strike a deal with 10 small Pacific nations during his visit. The sweeping agreement covers everything from security to fisheries and is seen by one Pacific leader as an attempt by Beijing to wrest control of the region.

Wang is hoping the countries will endorse the pre-written agreement as part of a joint communique after a May 30 meeting in Fiji with the other foreign ministers.

During his 10-day visit, Wang is also planning to make stops in Kiribati, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.

ANTONIO SN. BORJA, Chairman · JAMES M. MENDIOLA, Vice Chairman · HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS, Member · DONALD M. HOFSCHNEIDER, Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  1. May 6, 2022 - Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. REPORTS
- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- a. Casino License
  1) Bridge Investment Group/ Tinian Diamond Casino

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Introduction of New Member

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF ROLL UP DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ARFF Roll Up Doors Replacement Project, No. CPA-SA-001-20.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, June 3, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: May 9, 2022

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017

DESIGN SERVICES FOR EXPANSION OF THE SURGERY DEPARTMENT

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is soliciting sealed proposals from prospective firms to provide Professional Services for Architectural and Construction of CHCC's 3-Level Parking Garage Project.

This procurement is in accordance with the CHCC procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with CHCC §140-80.1-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals of the CHCC Procurement Regulations.

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on April 29, 2022 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017**.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at cora.ada@chcc.health no later than May 23rd, 2022.

Selection Criteria:

Technical criteria
- i. 25% Experience and Qualifications in similar or related projects
- ii. 25% Technical approach to meet deliverables and meet timelines of the project. Must be financially stable and must have adequate equipment and tools.
- iii. 25% Project Approach - demonstrate understanding and ability to meet requirements
- iv. 25% Cost Proposal

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in accordance with CHCC Procurement Regulations §140-80.1-245.

Please email your proposal to Ms. Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at **chcc.procurement@gmail.com** or submit five (5) hard copies including original copy, **no later than 10:00 AM Chamorro Standard Time (CHST) on May 30, 2022** at the CHCC Main Campus Office. Proposals received after the date and time will not be accepted

Please note submission instructions:
- All submissions must include the **RFP22-CHCC/SURGICAL EXPANSION-017** and Project Title in the email subject.
- All documents must be submitted in Adobe PDF Format.
- All pages of your proposal must include the RFP # and Project Title in the header, plus page number in the footer.

Proposers may opt to submit out (4) hard copies in addition to the original proposal (5 in total) to the CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, CHCC Main Office, Saipan.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP responses may result in the CHCC's choice to disqualify such proposals.

/S/ DR. ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes (October 22, 2021)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
IV. OLD BUSINESS
- a. CDBG-DR Updates – Housing, Infrastructure, and Economic Development
- b. FY 2020 Audit
- c. Tropex Garden Appeal

V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Additional Staffing for HAF and CDBG-DR Programs

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. OTHER MATTERS
IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Saipan Ice and Water Company
Job Vacancy Announcement

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Saipan Ice & Water Company, Inc.

The Position: Chemist

Job Description: Conducts chemical analysis for drinking water, such as PH, total dissolved solid conductivity, residual—free chlorine and fluoride content in accordance with EPA standards; Conducts microbiological tests for drinking water, such as coliform, etc.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering or related field.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a Chemist or related occupation.

JOB SITE: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base. Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and/or application letter to:

XAVIER O. BORJA
Vice-President
SAIPAN ICE & WATER COMPANY, INC.
Office Address: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501808, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: xborja@saipanice.com
Telephone Number: 1 (670) 287-0789

Saipan Ice and Water Company
Job Vacancy Announcement

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Saipan Ice & Water Company, Inc.

The Position: Accountant

Job Description: Plans, coordinates, and supervises the functions and activities of the accounting department and cashier's offiCel Provides and interprets fundamental financial data and information to the president; Assumes entire performance and activities of the accounting functions; Reviews, formulates, recommends and implements accounting policies, systems, and procedures of the company; Provides overall planning, direction, supervision, coordination, and control of accounting works; Handles postings to general ledger from books of original entry; Verifies all journals, check and account payable vouchers and check propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Supervises and coordinates with bookkeeper to ensure that postings to the books of accounts are accurate and that the subsidiary ledgers are up to date and periodically reconciled with the general ledger; Reviews aging of accounts payables and receivables; Prepares the following financial statements and reports following generally accepted accounting principles and statutory basis: Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Surplus, Statement of Cash Flows; and Annual Statements (Yellow Book); Performs treasury functions such as the matching and timing of fund sources with disbursements and the implementation of budget; and Performs other related duties that may be assigned by management.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must be proficient in peachtree accounting software and other accounting softwares; Must have experience in management; Must have excellent mathematical skills; money handling experience a must; Excellent customer service skills needed.

JOB SITE: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base. Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and/or application letter to:

XAVIER O. BORJA
Vice-President
SAIPAN ICE & WATER COMPANY, INC.
Office Address: Lower Base Drive cor. Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501808, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: xborja@saipanice.com | Telephone Number: 1 (670) 287-0789

Business

United to re-introduce Osaka-Guam service in July

GUAM—United Airlines is re-introducing its Osaka, Japan to Guam service beginning July 1 to meet summer travel demand to Guam.

The three-times-weekly flight is scheduled for Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Flight UA151 will leave Guam at 7:20am and arrive in Osaka at 10:10am. The return flight departs Osaka at 11:05am and arrives in Guam at 3:55pm.

"We have consistently served the Tokyo market, and we are very excited to re-introduce our Osaka flights," said Sam Shinohara, managing director of airport operations for Asia Pacific at United. "Osaka is the second largest outbound market in Japan for Guam, and we have been working hard to reinstate service to more cities in Japan. We will offer three flights a week to Osaka to start and will increase frequency as demand recovers."

Effective July 1, the flight schedule between Osaka and Guam will be as follows:

Depart	Time	Arrive	Time	Day of the Week
Guam	7:20am	Osaka	10:10am	Wed./Fri./Sun.
Osaka	11:05am	Guam	3:55pm	Wed./Fri./Sun.

"Adding the Osaka-Guam service provides our customers in Japan with better access to Guam. We are proud to be the only airline providing flight services between Japan and Guam," Shinohara added.

Three more weekly flights added between Tokyo/Narita and Guam

United also announced the addition of three weekly flights between Tokyo/Narita, Japan and Guam that will become effective on July 1, bringing the schedule to 14 weekly flights between the two cities. United will offer six-weekly morning flights, daily afternoon flights, and a Sunday evening flight to provide more travel choices and connectivity for its customers.

United has been gradually adding back service since earlier in May when it announced the addition of two weekly flights—a Saturday morning flight and a Sunday evening flight between

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Airlines is re-introducing its Osaka, Japan to Guam service beginning July 1 to meet summer travel demand to Guam.

Tokyo/Narita and Guam to its daily service. On June 3, United will operate two more morning flights per week bringing the total number of flights to 11-times weekly. Effective July 1, with the addition of the three new flights, United will fly between the two cities 14-times weekly.

Effective July 1, 2022, the flight schedule between Narita/Tokyo and Guam will be as follows:

Depart	Time	Arrive	Time	Day of the Week
Guam	7am	Narita	9:55am	Mon. / Tues. / Thurs. / Fri. / Sat. / Sun.
Guam		Narita	3:25pm	Daily
Guam	5:00pm	Narita	7:55pm	Sun.
Narita	11:00am	Guam	3:55pm	Mon. / Tues. / Thurs. / Fri. / Sat. / Sun.
Narita	5:00pm	Guam	9:55pm	Daily
Narita	9:05pm	Guam	1:45am (+1)	Sun.

Schedules may be subject to change. (+1) means the following day.

Flights can be booked at united.com, the United app, or through local travel agencies. Customers in Guam can receive assistance at the United City Ticket Office in Tiyan or by calling 1-800-864-8331. ***(PR)***

Docomo Pacific launches new, free 'Tech Talks' webinar series

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, announces a new webinar series called "Tech Talks."

Tech Talks is a new quarterly webinar series that aims to educate our community with information to enhance their current customer experience and introduce exciting new technology in the market. In each session, Docomo Pacific Business will partner with a technology subject matter expert for a live discussion and Q&A forum. The speakers and subjects will vary with each session, but the overall focus will be on the problems businesses are facing and how technological solutions can help.

The first session of the series is titled "Uniting a Virtual Workforce with Unified Communications" and will include the following speakers:

■ Jamie Scholfield, senior product marketing manager, Microsoft

■ Russell Ocampo, senior enterprise marketing manager, DOCOMO PACIFIC

■ Clea San Nicolas, segment marketing manager, Docomo Pacific

The topics include:

■ Operating in a hybrid work environment

■ Ways businesses can adopt to the new way of working

■ How Unified Communications supports business continuity

■ The future of business phone systems

The Docomo Pacific Business Tech Talks webinar series is available to everyone and is free of charge. The first session will take place on Friday, June 3, 2022, from 9am to 10am CHST via Docomo Pacific's Max Meeting platform.

To register, visit: https://info.docomopacific.com/techtalks. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
CUC-RAESP-22-027

A&E Design Services For Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Water System Mitigation Project PH II, PH I.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from FEMA HMGP.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RAESP-22-027, A&E Design Services for Water System Mitigation PH II, PH I"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 27, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 6, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

FDA chief struggles to explain slow response on baby formula

WASHINGTON (AP)—The head of the Food and Drug Administration faced bipartisan fury from House lawmakers Wednesday over months of delays investigating problems at the nation's largest baby formula plant that prompted an ongoing shortage.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf laid out a series of setbacks in congressional testimony that slowed his agency's response, including a COVID-19 outbreak at the plant and a whistleblower complaint that didn't reach FDA leadership because it was apparently lost in the mail.

Califf testified before a House subcommittee investigating the shortage, which has snowballed into a national political controversy and forced the U.S. military to begin airlifting supplies from Europe.

The shortage largely stems from Abbott's Michigan plant, which the FDA shut down in February due to contamination issues. Under fire from Congress, parents and the media, Califf gave the first detailed account Wednesday of why his agency took months to inspect and shutter the plant despite learning of potential problems as early as September.

The FDA's response was: "Too slow and there were decisions that were suboptimal along the way," Califf told lawmakers.

The FDA and President Joe Biden face mounting political pressure to explain why they didn't intervene sooner to head off the supply crisis.

"Why did it take an onslaught of national media attention for the Biden administration to act with a sense of urgency required to address an infant formula shortage?" asked Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Virginia, the committee's ranking Republican.

Califf said the agency had been trying to monitor formula supplies since 2020 when COVID-related disruptions first emerged, but regulators have limited visibility into company supply chains.

CBO: Inflation to last into 2023

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Congressional Budget Office released an economic outlook Wednesday saying high inflation will persist into next year, likely causing the federal government to pay higher interest rates on its debt.

The nonpartisan agency expects the consumer price index to rise 6.1% this year and 3.1% in 2023. This forecast suggests that inflation will slow from current annual levels of 8.3%, yet it would still be dramatically above a long-term baseline of 2.3%.

The 10-year estimates do contain positive news as this year's annual budget deficit will be $118 billion lower than forecast last year. That's a byproduct of the end of pandemic-related spending and the solid job growth it helped to spur. As a share of the total economy, publicly held debt will drop through 2023. Still, the accumulated federal debt will likely continue to grow over the next decade to be equal to roughly 110% of U.S. gross domestic product.

The Federal Reserve has been trying to reduce inflation by raising its benchmark interest rates, causing the interest charged on 10-year U.S. Treasury notes to increase substantially in recent months. One consequence is that the government will be spending more money this year to service its debt. By 2032, the yearly interest payments will nearly be $1.2 trillion, or more than what the federal government spends on defense.

Still, the CBO cautions that its numbers "are subject to considerable uncertainty, in part because of the ongoing pandemic and other world events," including Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. The report accounts at least for the first few weeks of the war, according to CBO.

Nation

Onlookers urged police to charge into Texas school

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—Frustrated onlookers urged police officers to charge into the Texas elementary school where a gunman's rampage killed 19 children and two teachers, witnesses said Wednesday, as investigators worked to track the massacre that lasted upwards of 40 minutes and ended when the 18-year-old shooter was killed by a Border Patrol team.

"Go in there! Go in there!" nearby women shouted at the officers soon after the attack began, said Juan Carranza, 24, who saw the scene from outside his house, across the street from Robb Elementary School in the close-knit town of Uvalde. Carranza said the officers did not go in.

Javier Cazares, whose fourth grade daughter, Jacklyn Cazares, was killed in the attack, said he raced to the school when he heard about the shooting, arriving while police were still gathered outside the building.

Upset that police were not moving in, he raised the idea of charging into the school with several other bystanders.

"Let's just rush in because the cops aren't doing anything like they are supposed to," he said. "More could have been done."

"They were unprepared," he added.

Minutes earlier, Carranza had watched as Salvador Ramos crashed his truck into a ditch outside the school, grabbed his AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle and shot at two people outside a nearby funeral home who ran away uninjured.

Officials say he "encountered" a school district security officer outside the school, though there were conflicting reports from authorities on whether the men exchanged gunfire. After running inside, he fired on two arriving Uvalde police officers who were outside the building, said Texas Department of Public Safety spokesperson Travis Considine. The police officers were injured.

After entering the school, Ramos charged into one classroom and began to kill.

He "barricaded himself by locking the door and just started shooting children and teachers that were inside that classroom," Lt. Christopher Olivarez of the Department of Public Safety told CNN. "It just shows you the complete evil of the shooter."

AP

People walk with flowers to honor the victims in Tuesday's shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

ACROSS THE NATION

Beto O'Rourke interrupts briefing, echoing US debate on guns

UVALDE, Texas (AP)—Surrounded by fellow Republicans on a high school stage, Gov. Greg Abbott was wrapping up his opening remarks about the killing of school children and teachers in Uvalde, Texas, when Beto O'Rourke strode forward from his seat in the audience. "Gov. Abbott, I have something to say," the Democrat challenging Abbott for governor this fall said Wednesday, pointing a finger at his rival. "The time to stop the next shooting is right now, and you are doing nothing." A mix of boos and cheers rose up from the crowd as the former congressman and 2020 presidential candidate briefly spoke, then was escorted from the room. Sen. Ted Cruz, standing behind Abbott, shook his head and said "sit down!" while one woman in the crowd chanted, "Let him speak." Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin yelled that O'Rourke was a "sick son of a bitch." Some people cried.

'How to Murder Your Husband' writer found guilty of murder

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A jury in Portland has convicted a self-published romance novelist—who once wrote an essay titled "How to Murder Your Husband"—of fatally shooting her husband four years ago. The jury of seven women and five men found Nancy Crampton Brophy, 71, guilty of second-degree murder Wednesday after deliberating over two days in chef Daniel Brophy's death, KOIN-TV reported. Brophy, 63, was killed June 2, 2018, as he prepped for work at the Oregon Culinary Institute in Southwest Portland. Crampton Brophy displayed no visible reaction Wednesday inside the crowded Multnomah County courtroom. Lisa Maxfield, one of Crampton Brophy's attorneys, said the defense team plans to appeal. Prosecutors told jurors that Crampton Brophy was motivated by money problems and a life insurance policy.

Asia

Marcos Jr. proclaimed next Philippine president with huge win

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was proclaimed the next president of the Philippines by a joint session of Congress on Wednesday following a landslide election triumph 36 years after his dictator father was ousted in a pro-democracy uprising.

The Senate and House of Representatives also declared that his separately elected vice presidential running mate, Sara Duterte, had won by a wide margin. She is the daughter of outgoing President Rodrigo Duterte, whose turbulent six-year term ends on June 30.

They will lead a nation battered by COVID-19 lockdowns, crushing poverty, gaping inequality, Muslim and communist insurgencies, crime and political divisions further inflamed by the May 9 election.

With his 92-year-old mother, Imelda Marcos, his wife, family and siblings beside him, Marcos Jr.'s hands were raised by the Senate president and House speaker in a plenary hall bedecked with a huge Philippine flag to applause from the audience, which included diplomats.

"I'm humbled," he later told reporters. "I thank our people and, beyond that, I promise you that we may not be perfect but we will always strive to perfection."

"I ask you all pray for me, wish me well. I want to do well because when the president does well, the country does well," he said, without taking any questions.

AP

President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., center, raises hands with Senate President Vicente Sotto III, left, and House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco during his proclamation at the House of Representatives, Quezon City, Philippines on Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

Marcos Jr., a 64-year-old former governor, congressman and senator, has refused to acknowledge or apologize for massive human rights violations and plunder under his father's rule and has defended his legacy.

When they take office, Marcos Jr. and Sara Duterte will likely face demands to prosecute her father over thousands of killings of mostly poor suspects under his yearslong crackdown on illegal drugs. The deaths are currently under investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Marcos Jr. received more than 31 million votes and Sara Duterte more than 32 million out of more than 55 million votes cast in the election. It was the first majority presidential victory in the Asian democracy in decades.

During the campaign, they avoided controversial issues and focused on a call for national unity, although their fathers' presidencies opened some of the most volatile divisions in the country's history. Marcos Jr. appealed to be judged "not by my ancestors, but by my actions."

Sen. Imee Marcos, his sister, thanked those who voted for him after what she described as decades of "ridicule and oppression."

"We're very, very grateful for a second chance," she told reporters before the proclamation. "Our family went through a lot and after 1986, we faced all sorts of cases, ridicule and oppression" for nearly four decades.

In Marcos Jr.'s campaign headquarters, supporters waved Philippine flags, flashed the victory sign and held a streamer congratulating him and Sara Duterte.

Still, both have been hounded by their fathers' reputations.

Riot police used a water cannon and shields to prevent a few hundred activists from marching to Congress to oppose Wednesday's proclamations, injuring at least 14 protesters, the left-wing group Bayan said.

"Ferdinand Sr. tortured a lot of people, many were killed and many are still missing up to now. There is no justice for their families. Many starved and that was also the same in Duterte's period," protester Mimi Domingo said.

Last week, human rights activists submitted a petition to the Supreme Court against Marcos Jr.'s eligibility, citing his past tax conviction. They asked the court to block his proclamation, but no such order was issued. The complaint was earlier dismissed by the Commission on Elections.

Japan, US fly fighters after China drill, N. Korean missiles

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese and U.S. forces have conducted a joint fighter jet flight over the Sea of Japan, Japan's Defense Ministry said Thursday, in an apparent response to a Russia-China joint bomber flight while U.S. President Joe Biden was in Tokyo.

The Japan-U.S. joint flight on Wednesday was meant to "confirm combined capabilities of the Japanese SDF and the U.S. forces and to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance," the Joint Staff of the Japanese Self-Defense Force said in a statement. "In order to respond to any emergency, we are taking utmost readiness."

The flight was also held hours after North Korea fired three missiles, including an intercontinental ballistic missile, toward the sea between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, amid concerns about another nuclear test by Pyongyang. The missiles fell into the waters outside of Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Chinese and Russian strategic bombers conducted joint flights near Japan on Tuesday, Japan's Defense Ministry said, while Biden was meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and their counterparts from India and Australia for the Quad, an Indo-Pacific security and economic coalition meant as a counterweight to China's growing influence in the region.

Chinese H-6 bombers joined Russian TU-95s over the Sea of Japan and flew to areas over the East China Sea, but did not violate Japanese airspace, said Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi. Separately, a Russian IL-20 reconnaissance plane was spotted flying off the northern Japanese coast.

The Chinese-Russian joint flight represented an "increased level of provocation" and a threat to the Quad, Kishi said later Tuesday.

China's Ministry of Defense said the Chinese and Russian militaries carried out joint strategic air patrols above the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the western Pacific.

Wednesday's Japan-U.S. joint flight involved eight warplanes based in Japan, including four U.S. F-16 fighters and four Japanese F-15s, the Japanese Joint Staff said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Seoul: N Korea fires suspected ICBM and 2 other missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea test-launched a suspected intercontinental ballistic missile and two shorter-range weapons toward its eastern waters Wednesday, South Korea said, hours after President Joe Biden ended a trip to Asia where he reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend its allies in the face of the North's nuclear threat. The suspected ICBM didn't fly its full range. But if confirmed, it would still be North Korea's first test of an ICBM system in about two months amid stalled nuclear diplomacy with the United States. The launch suggests North Korea is determined to continue its efforts to modernize its arsenal despite its first COVID-19 outbreak, which has caused outside worries about a humanitarian disaster. "North Korea's sustained provocations can only result in stronger and faster South Korea-U.S. combined deterrence and can only deepen North Korea's international isolation," the South Korean government said in a statement after an emergency security meeting. Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi called the launches "an act of provocation and absolutely impermissible."

Blast in Kabul mosque, IS bombs in north Afghanistan kill 14

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A series of explosions shook Afghanistan on Wednesday, the Taliban said, including a blast inside a mosque in the capital of Kabul that killed at least five worshippers and three bombings of minivans in the country's north that killed nine passengers. The Islamic State group's local affiliate claimed responsibility for the minivan bombings. The Kabul Emergency Hospital said it received 22 victims of the mosque bombing, including five dead. There were no further details on the blast that struck the Hazrat Zakaria Mosque in the city's central Police District 4, according to Khalid Zadran, a Taliban police spokesman in Kabul. "The blast took place while people were inside the mosque for the evening prayers," Zadran said, adding that they were waiting for an update. The minivans were targeted in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif after explosive devices were placed inside the vehicles, according to Mohammad Asif Waziri, a Taliban-appointed spokesman in Balkh province. He said the explosions killed nine and wounded 15.

Dispute over mosque becomes religious flashpoint in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—For nearly three centuries, Muslims and Hindus in India's northern Varanasi city have prayed to their gods in a mosque and a temple that are separated by one wall. Many see it as an example of religious coexistence in a country where bouts of deadly communal violence are common. That coexistence is now under threat due to a controversial court case. A local court earlier this month began hearing a petition filed by a group of Hindus that seeks access to pray inside the Gyanvapi mosque compound, arguing it was built on top of the ruins of a medieval-era temple that was razed by a Mughal emperor. The petitioners say the complex still houses Hindu idols and motifs, a claim that has been contested by the mosque's authorities. The legal battle is the latest instance of a growing phenomenon in which Hindu groups petition courts demanding land they claim belongs to Hindus. Critics say such cases spark fears over the status of religious places for India's Muslims, a minority community that has come under attack in recent years by Hindu nationalists who seek to turn officially secular India into an avowedly Hindu nation.

World

Russia takes steps to bolster army, tighten grip on Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin issued an order Wednesday to fast track Russian citizenship for residents of parts of southern Ukraine largely held by his forces, while lawmakers in Moscow passed a bill to strengthen the stretched Russian army.

Putin's decree applying to the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions could allow Russia to strengthen its hold on territory that lies between eastern Ukraine, where Moscow-backed separatists occupy some areas, and the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized in 2014.

The Russian army is engaged in an intense battle for Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, known as the Donbas. In a sign that the Kremlin is trying to bolster its stretched military machine, Russian lawmakers agreed to scrap the age limit of 40 for those signing their first voluntary military contracts.

A description of the bill on the parliament website indicated older recruits would be allowed to operate precision weapons or serve in engineering or medical positions. The chair of the Russian parliament's defense committee, Andrei Kartapolov, said the measure would make it easier to hire people with "in-demand" skills.

Russian officials say only volunteer contract soldiers are sent to fight in Ukraine, although they acknowledge that some conscripts were put into the fighting by mistake in the early stages of the war.

Three months into Russia's invasion, Putin visited a military hospital in Moscow on Wednesday and met with some soldiers wounded in Ukraine, the Kremlin said in a statement.

It was his first known visit with soldiers fighting in Ukraine since he launched the war on Feb. 24. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has visited wounded soldiers, civilians and children—including at times when Russian troops were fighting on the outskirts of Kyiv.

A reporter for the state-run Russia1 TV channel posted a video clip on Telegram showing Putin in a white medical coat talking to a man in hospital attire, presumably a soldier.

The man, filmed from behind standing up and with no visible wounds, tells Putin that he has a son. The president, accompanied by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, responds: "He will be proud of his father," before shaking the man's hand.

Zelenskyy reiterated Wednesday that he would be willing to negotiate with Putin directly but said Moscow needs to retreat to the positions it held before the invasion and must show it's ready to "shift from the bloody war to diplomacy."

"I believe it would be a correct step for Russia to make," Zelenskyy told leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, by video link.

He also said Ukraine wants to drive Russian troops out of all captured areas. "Ukraine will fight until it reclaims all its territories," Zelenskyy said. "It's about our independence and our sovereignty."

In his nightly address to the nation, Zelenskyy strongly rebuffed those in the West who suggest Ukraine cede control of areas occupied by Russian troops for the sake of reaching a peace agreement.

WORLD BRIEFS

Official: 41 indicted in $58M Puerto Rico drug operation

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A federal grand jury indicted 41 suspected gang members in Puerto Rico accused of smuggling drugs to the U.S mainland as part of a $58 million operation, authorities said Wednesday. Those arrested include several of the U.S. territory's suspected drug trafficking leaders, according to Joseph González, special agent in charge of the FBI in San Juan. He said the suspects are accused of distributing drugs that arrived via ships from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The U.S. Attorney's Office said the suspects also are accused of distributing heroin, crack, prescription pills and other drugs near various public housing complexes in the capital of San Juan for the past six years. Three of the 41 suspects are accused of money laundering, including buying cars with revenue from the alleged drug sales. Authorities said the suspects would prepare the drugs in abandoned apartments in public housing units and stash them in properties using rental applications like AirBnb.

UK's Johnson faulted for lockdown parties but won't quit

LONDON (AP)—An investigative report released Wednesday blamed British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and other senior leaders for allowing boozy government parties that broke the U.K.'s COVID-19 lockdown rules, and while Johnson said he took "full responsibility" for the breaches, he insisted he would not resign. Revelations that Johnson and his staff repeatedly flouted restrictions they imposed on Britain in 2020 and 2021 have fueled outrage in the country and led to calls from opponents for Johnson to step down over the scandal known as "partygate." Most lawmakers in Johnson's governing Conservative Party have stood by him for now, and it's not yet clear if senior civil servant Sue Gray's report will change that, despite its detailed descriptions of alcohol-fueled bashes in the building where the prime minister both lives and works. Gray investigated 16 gatherings attended by Johnson and his staff while U.K. residents were barred from socializing, or even from visiting sick and dying relatives, because of coronavirus restrictions.

Gambia to investigate fugitive ex-dictator Jammeh for abuses

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Gambia's government is setting up a special prosecutor's office to investigate for severe human rights violations and potentially charge former dictator Yahya Jammeh, who fled into exile in 2017 after 22 years in power. Wednesday's government announcement came in response to recommendations from a truth, reconciliation and reparations commission that Jammeh face prosecution for murder, torture and sexual violence while he ruled from 1994 to 2017. The commission's report—presented to President Adama Barrow and made public in December—was based on years of witness testimonies. Gambia's Justice Minister Dawda A. Jallow said Wednesday's move is "an important milestone" in the country's transitional justice process. The announcement came in the form of a 173-page white paper that made clear that the government was accepting most of the commission's more than 260 recommendations to prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations during Jammeh's time in power.

6 migrants die, 5 injured in Mexico bus crash

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Authorities in northern Mexico said Wednesday that six migrants were killed and 25 were injured after a bus they were riding in plunged through a guardrail and down an embankment. It was the latest in a series of deadly crashes and drownings of migrants in the last week. The civil defense office in the northern state of San Luis Potosi said those injured in the bus crash included a six-month-old baby and an 8-year-old child. The office said that all of the victims "are migrants from Honduras, El Salvador and Cuba." Prosecutors said the dead included four women and two men, but their nationalities were not immediately clear. Local media reported the bus had departed from an area near Mexico City and was heading toward the U.S. border. Photos from the scene suggested the bus had flipped onto its side. The accident occurred on a highway just outside the state capital, also known as San Luis Potosi. Immigrants activists say crackdowns on migrant crossing have led some to use riskier routes to the U.S. border.

Dozens of Europe-bound migrants missing off Tunisia's coast

AP

Dozens of migrants fall in the water while they struggle to cling to the side of an upturning boat off the waters of Tunisia early Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Rescue teams searched Wednesday for dozens of people reported missing after a boat carrying migrants from Libya to Europe capsized off Tunisia's coast.

The International Organization for Migration said 30 people were rescued and 75 people were unaccounted for after the boat sank off the city of Sfax in southern Tunisia. One body has been recovered, authorities said.

Mourad Turki, a Sfax courts spokesperson, told The Associated Press that the people rescued were between the ages of 18 and 40 and of various nationalities, including Bangladeshi, Egyptian, Moroccan and Cameroonian.

The number believed to be missing was provisional and could increase, Turki said. The search continued Wednesday, according to International Organization for Migration spokesperson Esma Rihane.

The boat reportedly departed from Zuwara in north Libya on Sunday night. According to the Sfax National Guard, the vessel ran aground 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the island of Kerkennah, off Tunisia's coast, although it was unclear exactly when.

Zuwara serves as a departure point for migrants attempting to reach southern Europe by sea. Last July, a boat carrying 127 migrants from Zuwara sank off Zarzis, a port in southern Tunisia, leaving 43 people missing.

Boat with 842 Haitians headed for US winds up in Cuba

VILLA CLARA, Cuba (AP)—A vessel carrying more than 800 Haitians trying to reach the United States wound up instead on the coast of central Cuba, in what appeared to be the largest group seen yet in a swelling exodus from crisis-stricken Haiti.

Haitian migrants wait to be processed and receive medical attention at a tourist campground in Sierra Morena, in the Villa Clara province of Cuba, Wednesday, May 25, 2022. AP

Red Cross officials in the province of Villa Clara said Wednesday that the 842 Haitians were being housed at a tourist campground. The group arrived Tuesday at Villa Blanca, about 300 kilometers (180 miles) east of Havana, and reportedly included 70 children and 97 women.

The Haitians said they called for help with light signals after being abandoned and cast adrift by their captain.

"We were on Tortuga Island for two months waiting for the trip until last Saturday, when at five in the morning they took us to the boat," 19-year-old Joyce Paul, who arrived on the boat, told The Associated Press.

In the following days, "15 people threw themselves into the sea because they couldn't stand hunger," Paul said. "There was a herring for (each) 15 people and they gave us water."

Paul was traveling with an uncle, his wife and a baby at a cost of $4,000 per person. The family said the captain abandoned them early Tuesday on a separate small boat after taking their cellphones. The ship was listing. With a flashlight, they managed to draw the attention of people on Cuba's coast.

Off The Wall

Nearly 8,000-year-old skull is found in Minnesota River

REDWOOD FALLS, Minn. (AP)—A partial skull that was discovered last summer by two kayakers in Minnesota will be returned to Native American officials after investigations determined it was about 8,000 years old.

The kayakers found the skull in the drought-depleted Minnesota River about 110 miles (180 kilometers) west of Minneapolis, Renville County Sheriff Scott Hable said.

Thinking it might be related to a missing person case or murder, Hable turned the skull over to a medical examiner and eventually to the FBI, where a forensic anthropologist used carbon dating to determine it was likely the skull of a young man who lived between 5500 and 6000 B.C., Hable said.

"It was a complete shock to us that that bone was that old," Hable told Minnesota Public Radio.

The anthropologist determined the man had a depression in his skull that was "perhaps suggestive of the cause of death."

After the sheriff posted about the discovery on Wednesday, his office was criticized by several Native Americans, who said publishing photos of ancestral remains was offensive to their culture.

Hable said his office removed the post.

"We didn't mean for it to be offensive whatsoever," Hable said.

Hable said the remains will be turned over to Upper Sioux Community tribal officials.

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Cultural Resources Specialist Dylan Goetsch said in a statement that neither the council nor the state archaeologist were notified about the discovery, which is required by state laws that govern the care and repatriation of Native American remains.

Goetsch said the Facebook post "showed a complete lack of cultural sensitivity" by failing to call the individual a Native American and referring to the remains as "a little piece of history."

Kathleen Blue, a professor of anthropology at Minnesota State University, said Wednesday that the skull was definitely from an ancestor of one of the tribes still living in the area, The New York Times reported.

She said the young man would have likely eaten a diet of plants, deer, fish, turtles and freshwater mussels in a small region, rather than following mammals and bison on their migrations.

Man gambles COVID funds mistakenly sent to him

TOKYO (AP)—The money was supposed to be COVID-19 assistance for low-income households in a small Japanese town, but it was mistakenly wired to a bank account of a resident who refused to return it and spent most of it on online gambling, police said.

Sho Taguchi, a 24-year-old jobless resident in the town of Abu in western Japan, was arrested on Wednesday, Yamaguchi prefectural police said.

Police said Thursday he admitted to spending most of the 46.3 million yen ($360,000) of taxpayers' money on gambling. According to Kyodo News agency, only 68,000 yen ($530) is left in his bank account after he withdrew the money 34 times in just over 10 days after the town made the mistake.

He's being held on suspicion of computer fraud. Taguchi had allegedly refused the town request to return the money, police said.

The funds were COVID-19 subsidies that were deposited into his bank account in April. Each of the 463 low-income households in Abu, population 3,372, was supposed to receive 100,000 yen ($780). But a town official mistakenly submitted to a financial institution a single transfer request of the total amount to Taguchi, whose name was the first on the list of recipients, Kyodo News reported.

Town officials are separately investigating how the erroneous transfer went through unnoticed, a mistake that has triggered a wave of criticism from residents.

Abu Mayor Norihiko Hanada on Thursday told reporters that the arrest is a step toward tracing the money and hoped it is recovered in full.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pool noodle fight over the name Josh again attracts hundreds

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—A couple hundred people grabbed their pool noodles and headed to a Nebraska park again this weekend to battle over the right to the name Josh. The event started as an online joke when Josh Swain from Tucson, Arizona, sent out a tweet challenging anyone who shared his name to fight over it. After it took on a life of its own, Swain turned it into a real event last year at the random coordinates he included in his original note, which happened to be in Lincoln, Nebraska. "The enthusiasm from everybody here was just incredible," Swain told the Lincoln Journal Star. Several of the competitors this year donned costumes, including masks, animal suits and football helmets, before heading out to Bowling Lake Park. But that wasn't enough to dethrone 5-year-old Josh Vinson Jr., who defended his title as the No. 1 Josh. Saturday's event raised nearly $21,000 for Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, and the owners of the Josh Cellars wine label pledged to match that amount with a donation of their own. The hospital said it plans to share some of the donations with the Joshua Collinsworth Memorial Foundation that promotes water safety with its Josh the Otter mascot who attended Saturday's battle.

German farm owner saves fuel money with horse-drawn carriage

SCHUPBACH, Germany (AP)—Stephanie Kirchner's journey to work has got longer but, she says, cheaper: she has left her SUV at home and switched to real horse power. Stud farm owner and horse trainer Kirchner, 33, says she decided "it can't go on like this" after fuel prices jumped following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "Since I also suspected hay harvesting and everything else will become much, much more expensive, we said, 'we have to save a little money,'" she says. So she has switched to traveling the roughly 6 kilometers (3 1/2 miles) from her home in western Germany by horse-drawn carriage. That turns a one-way trip from 10-15 minutes to as much as an hour. But Kirchner calculates that, given how much fuel her Toyota SUV consumes, she saves about 250 euros ($264) per month if she can use horse power every day. Her carriage, drawn by two horses, is popular with children and some others. But "of course humanity is hectic and then some people are annoyed if they can't get past me fast enough," Kircher says.

Science & Technology

A Roomba for your lawn

Toro's new robotic lawn mowers for residential markets will be available in 2023. TORO/TNS

Toro announced the introduction of a robotic lawn mower for the residential market that will greatly reduce the time and sweat homeowners spend cutting grass.

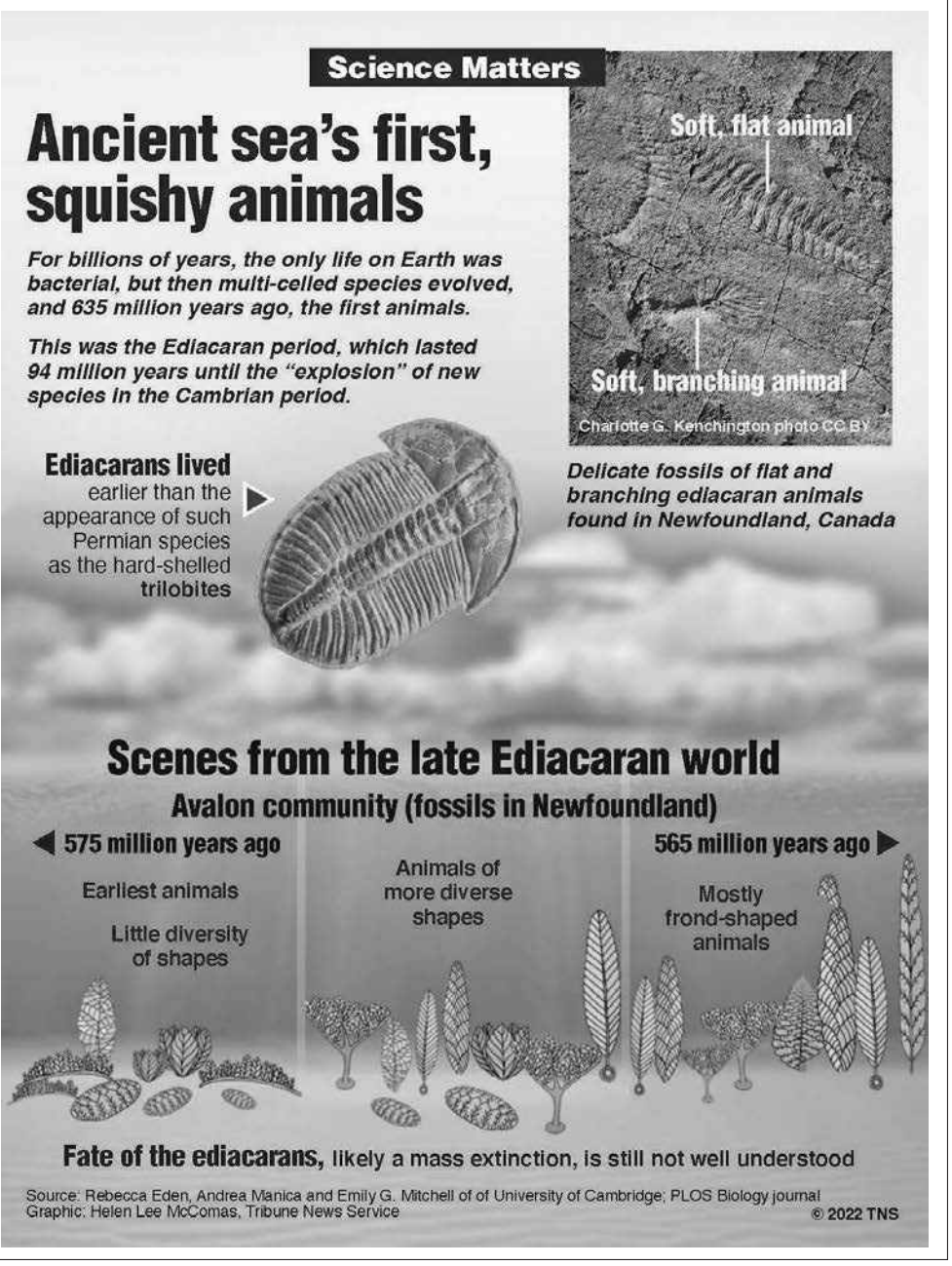
Toro has some autonomous lawn mowers for golf courses and commercial markets under development but is introducing its first robotic mower for residential use.

To compete against robotic residential lawn mowers already on the market. Toro says its autonomous mower is the first in the space to use optical sensors. Some of the existing robot mowers on the market use GPS navigation or require a guidewire to be buried around the perimeter of the yard or obstacles that the mower uses for navigation.

The robot mower is a product of Toro's Center for Technology, Research and Innovation (CTRI).

"There's a lot of different teams across Toro that come together to build this type of product," said Greg Janey, vice president of the residential and landscape contractor business at Toro and head of its Center for Technology, Research and Innovation, which developed the new mower.

"Ultimately this is really the foundation for us to build as we go into the future around different types of technologies around battery, smart-connected and autonomous technologies," he said. "This one specifically is really the start of a smart yard."


Science Matters
Ancient sea's first, squishy animals
For billions of years, the only life on Earth was bacterial, but then multi-celled species evolved, and 635 million years ago, the first animals.
This was the Ediacaran period, which lasted 94 million years until the "explosion" of new species in the Cambrian period.
Soft, flat animal
Soft, branching animal
Charlotte G. Kenchington photo CC BY
Ediacarans lived earlier than the appearance of such Permian species as the hard-shelled trilobites
Delicate fossils of flat and branching ediacaran animals found in Newfoundland, Canada
Scenes from the late Ediacaran world
Avalon community (fossils in Newfoundland)
575 million years ago
565 million years ago
Earliest animals
Little diversity of shapes
Animals of more diverse shapes
Mostly frond-shaped animals
Fate of the ediacarans, likely a mass extinction, is still not well understood
Source: Rebecca Eden, Andrea Manica and Emily G. Mitchell of of University of Cambridge; PLOS Biology journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
© 2022 TNS

Life & Style

Reality TV's Josh Duggar gets 12 years in child porn case

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Former reality TV star Josh Duggar was sentenced Wednesday to about 12 1/2 years in prison after he was convicted of receiving child pornography.

Duggar was also convicted of possessing child pornography in December, but U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks dismissed that conviction after ruling that, under federal law, it was an included offense in the receiving child pornography count.

Prosecutors had asked U.S. District Judge Timothy Brooks to give the maximum term of 20 years to Duggar, whose large family was the focus of TLC's "19 Kids and Counting." They argued in a pre-sentencing court filing that Duggar has a "deep-seated, pervasive and violent sexual interest in children."

The judge sentenced Duggar to 12 years and seven months in prison, one day after denying a defense motion to overturn the guilty verdict on grounds of insufficient evidence or to order a new trial.

U.S. Attorney David Clay Fowlkes said he was pleased with the sentence.

"While this is not the sentence we asked for, this is a lengthy sentence," Fowlkes said outside the courthouse.

Duggar, whose lawyers sought a five-year sentence, maintains his innocence. Defense attorney Justin Gelfand said he is grateful Brooks declined to impose the full 20-year sentence requested by prosecutors.

Duggar

"We'll immediately file the notice of appeal within the next 14 days," Gelfand said.

Duggar was arrested in April 2021 after a Little Rock police detective found child porn files were being shared by a computer traced to Duggar. Investigators testified that images depicting the sexual abuse of children, including toddlers, were downloaded in 2019 onto a computer at a car dealership Duggar owned.

TLC canceled "19 Kids and Counting" in 2015 following allegations that Duggar had molested four of his sisters and a babysitter years earlier. Authorities began investigating the abuse in 2006 after receiving a tip from a family friend but concluded that the statute of limitations on any possible charges had expired.

Duggar's parents said he had confessed to the fondling and apologized. After the allegations resurfaced in 2015, Duggar apologized publicly for unspecified behavior and resigned as a lobbyist for the Family Research Council, a conservative Christian group.

Months later, he publicly apologized for cheating on his wife and a pornography addiction, for which he then sought treatment.

In seeking a 20-year sentence, prosecutors cited the graphic images — and the ages of the children involved — as well as court testimony about the alleged abuse of Duggar's sisters.

Duggar's past behavior "provides an alarming window into the extent of his sexual interest in children that the Court should consider at sentencing," federal prosecutors wrote in their sentencing memorandum.

Steven Tyler enters treatment, Aerosmith cancels shows

BOSTON (AP)—Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler has voluntarily entered a rehabilitation program, forcing the Boston-based rock band to cancel the first portion of its upcoming Las Vegas residency.

Tyler, 74, has made no secret of his lifelong struggle with substance abuse disorder.

"As many of you know, our beloved brother Steven has worked on his sobriety for many years," the band posted on social media on Tuesday. "After foot surgery to prepare for the stage and the necessity of pain management during the process, he has recently relapsed and voluntarily entered a treatment program to concentrate on his health and recovery."

The band's June and July shows in Las Vegas have been canceled, and the goal is to start performing again in September, the band posted.

AP

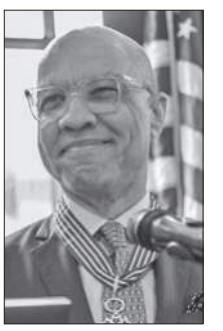
Steven Tyler, of the musical group Aerosmith, performs at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Jan. 26, 2020.

"We are devastated that we have inconvenienced so many of you, especially our most loyal fans who often travel great distances to experience our shows," the band said.

The band promised refunds for the canceled shows.

Ford Foundation's Darren Walker gets France's highest

NEW YORK (AP)—Darren Walker, Ford Foundation president and preeminent connector and advocate for artists and art institutions, joined the exclusive company of global superstars like Stevie Wonder, T.S. Eliot and Meryl Streep, in receiving France's highest cultural honor.



Walker

Walker was named commander of France's Order of Arts and Letters for his work as a benefactor of the arts on Tuesday at a Gilded Age mansion in New York owned by the French embassy.

"Being in this firmament is absolutely humbling," Walker told The Associated Press. "I'm simply a servant to the idea of art and justice in the world, because we can't have justice without art."

Walker became president of the Ford Foundation, one of the largest in the U.S., in 2013. He came in with a vision to shape the organization's giving to support social justice in part through funding the arts.

To symbolize that mission, Walker arranged to sell the foundation's art collection of works almost exclusively from white male artists. Starting in 2017, the collection displayed at the foundation's buildings was rebuilt with some 350 works of newer artists, many of whom are people of color, women and queer people.

Walker has steadily built a connection with French institutions in part because of what he described as the country's parallel journeys to live up to their founding ideals of freedom or liberty for all, equality and fellowship.

"France, just like America, unfortunately, has engaged in the exclusion of especially the art and culture and stories of people of African descent," Walker said. And just like in America, "France is on a journey" toward great inclusion and recognition of the contributions of Black artists, he said.

Conniving boyfriend sabotages longtime friendship with lies

DEAR ABBY: I have a gay friend I'll call "Allen." We have been close friends for 13 years. Allen has visited me often with his friends from England, and two years ago, when I could finally afford to visit him, he invited me to stay in the home he shares with his boyfriend, "Rupert." Rupert took an instant dislike to me. He treated me rudely and mocked my American accent the entire time I was there. I let it be and concentrated on the beautiful scenery, the beautiful people I met and my longtime friend.

On my last day there, Rupert offered to take me around London, which surprised me. But I was happy to get into the city, so I agreed. It was extremely unpleasant. He berated me loudly in public, called me old and ugly and yelled at me at the top of his lungs in a gift shop.

I texted Allen later that day asking if I could stay the last night at a hotel instead of their guest room. He replied by telling me all the stuff Rupert had texted to him that day about how I had been treating HIM badly. I was shocked. I hadn't mentioned anything about Rupert, but simply asked if he would be able to drive me to a hotel near the airport for my last night in England. I have since tried to reach out to Allen to explain my side of the story, but he continues to ignore me. Any advice on how to move forward would be helpful.

SAD TRAVELER IN NEVADA

DEAR SAD TRAVELER: For whatever reason, Rupert regarded your long friendship with Allen as a threat, so he used the afternoon in London to cut you off at the knees. As long as Allen continues to ignore your efforts to mitigate the damage, consider him unreachable. With the passage of time, he may eventually realize how devious Rupert is, but this is a conclusion he must arrive at without your help. Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your friendship, which I am sure was important to you.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Everywhere, it seems, there are books and guides for caring for aging parents. But what about aging siblings? The age difference is smaller, so it can end up with the elderly caring for the elderly -- especially if there isn't a next generation of family members on whom to rely.

As we baby boomers hit our 70s, we can find ourselves caring for siblings in their early 80s, and they're even less likely to listen to us than our parents were. Frankly, some of us are already worn out from caring for elderly parents. We're at the point of concern about our own health and that of our spouses. When you've got a 73-year-old trying to take care of an 80-year-old who is childless and lives 700 miles away, and who says only, "I'll let you know when I need you," it's frightening. Any guidance?

DAUNTING IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR DAUNTING: Yes, I think you should follow the directive of your 80-year-old sibling and wait to be asked for help instead of "hovering." Familiarize yourself with what senior services are available in their community and cross your fingers they will not be needed. In addition, take whatever relevant guidance you can from the books on caring for parents, because in many ways, there may be great similarities.

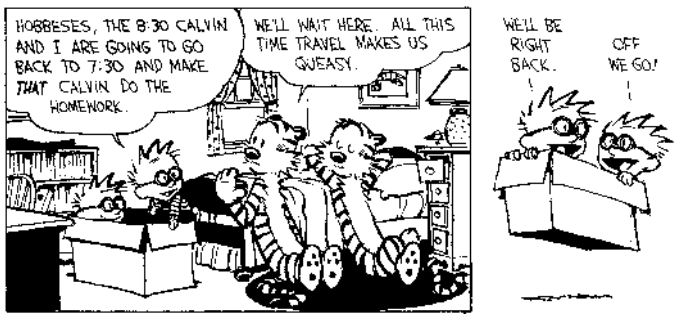
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBESES, THE 8:30 CALVIN AND I ARE GOING TO GO BACK TO 7:30 AND MAKE THAT CALVIN DO THE HOMEWORK.
WE'LL WAIT HERE. ALL THIS TIME TRAVEL MAKES US QUEASY.
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
OFF WE GO!
THIS HAS TO BE THE LEAST EFFICIENT WAY TO WRITE A PAPER.
ALL THIS MODERN TECHNOLOGY JUST MAKES PEOPLE TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

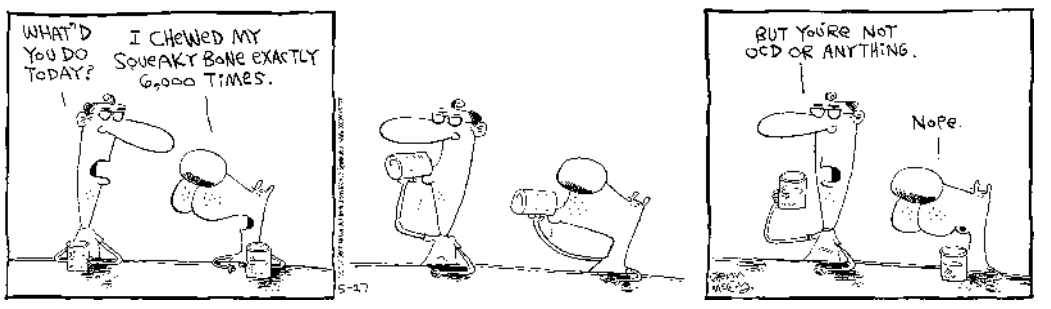
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MAYBE "THE TODAY SHOW" WILL CALL TO HAVE YOU ON TO TALK ABOUT YOUR BOOK.
HA! THAT'D-
RING!
IT'S THE PLUMBER. HE'S HERE TO SNAKE THE TOILET.
WELL, HE STILL MIGHT WANNA TALK ABOUT YOUR BOOK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

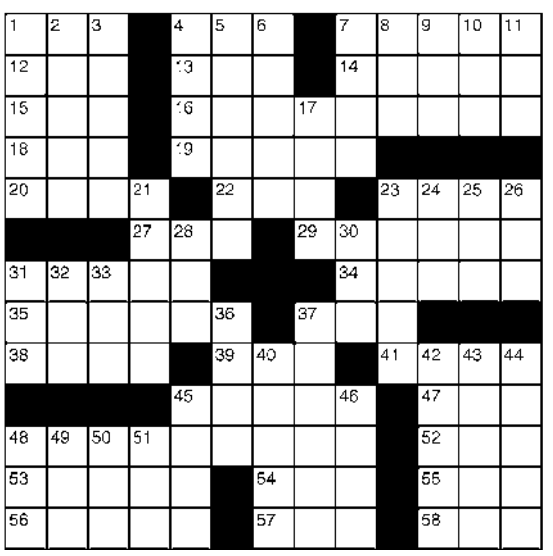
ACROSS
1 Crony
4 Transcript no.
7 Gem weight
12 In the manner of
13 Operate
14 Quickly
15 Cauldron
16 Well-informed
18 Sushi fish
19 Coffin stands
20 Dress designer Vera
22 Mormon church, for short
23 San —, Italy
27 Opener at Vegas?
29 Pearl producer
31 Center of Florida?
34 Cameo shapes
35 Road bends
37 Marching syllable
38 Bassoon's kin
39 Tax prep pro
41 Booty
45 Analyze grammatically
47 Haw preceder
48 Satisfactory
52 Follower (Suff.)
53 Temperaments
54 Fanatic
55 Witticism
56 Fold
57 Em halves
58 CIA operative

DOWN
1 Tropical melon tree
2 Hilo hello
3 Classical language
4 Vittles
5 Students
6 Paid (up)
7 Mama — Elliot
8 PC program
9 Arctic explorer John
10 Expert serve
11 Rocker Nugent
17 Approximately
21 Catcher's gear
23 Answers an evite
24 LAX info
25 Actor Gibson
26 Hosp. areas
28 Noshed
30 "How dare —!"
31 Green prefix
32 Tavern
33 — -Magnon
36 Read quickly
37 Lives it up
40 Dried plum
42 Impulses
43 Fable writer
44 Oil tycoon J. Paul —
45 Whispered "Hey!"
46 New newts
48 Diamond arbiter
49 D.C. figure
50 Sock part
51 — Mae (Whoopi's role in "Ghost")

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	I	S		S	O	B	S		I	O	T	A
R	N	A		H	A	L	O		S	M	U	G
S	A	N	D	I	T	O	N		L	A	N	E
		S	I	N		B	A	N	A	N	A	S
B	A	K	E	N	Y		R	I	M			
E	R	N		S	J	B		B	I	S	O	N
L	E	I	S		M	O	O		C	A	G	E
T	A	T	U	M		T	I	C		N	R	A
			P	I	E		L	A	N	C	E	T
F	L	O	R	I	D	A		L	E	T		
L	I	N	E		S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H
U	N	U	M		E	R	N	E		T	E	A
E	A	S	E		L	E	E	R		Y	O	N

Yesterday's answer 5-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Colfer, 32; Shanola Hampton, 45; Jack McBrayer, 49; Paul Bettany, 51.

Happy Birthday: Pull out all the stops, and force issues that will clear up unfinished business. Cutting ties with the past will give you the freedom to try something new or encourage you to use your knowledge, skills and experience to branch out and do something interesting. Protect your health, position and reputation. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 25, 28, 33, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be careful not to let your emotions take over if someone uses force. Be smart and deliver precise information to avoid being blamed for spreading falsehoods. Look for opportunities that offer financial freedom. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Decisiveness will be mandatory to get where you want to go. Leave nothing to the imagination or to chance. Know what and who you are up against, and do your best. Don't let someone break your confidence using manipulative tactics. Believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take a leadership position, and find a way to express your beliefs, opinions and plans. Show compassion, and offer solutions that will help you gain support. Don't sit on the sidelines when you have so much to offer and plenty to gain. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep life simple, your responsibilities doable and your spending moderate. You don't have to impress anyone; you have to be yourself and let the experiences you encounter lead to the right decisions. Don't fear change; embrace new beginnings. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pay attention to what you say and do to avoid jeopardizing your position or reputation. Living up to your promises and emphasizing personal improvements will help expand what you have to offer. If you want to excel, updates are necessary. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be the instigator, and you'll gain points. Your suggestions and the changes you initiate will stimulate conversation and help you make headway regarding things you want to pursue. Put your energy and intelligence to work, and something good will transpire. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Push for what you want. Expand your interests and offer more to those you wish to work alongside. The information you accumulate will help you craft an impressive strategy. Personal growth, self-improvement and romance are on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Address your responsibilities, and search for a way to delegate some of the work. It's up to you to say when something is too much or ask for help. Speak up and defend your position; positive changes will occur. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take it upon yourself to get things done. If you count on someone other than yourself, you will be disappointed, causing consequences that can be costly. Channel your energy where it will do its best, and take credit for your contribution. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Spend more time nurturing meaningful relationships and making your home comfortable and convenient. Don't hesitate to initiate change or to do things differently. A situation will lead to an insight regarding money management. Keep a strict budget. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Disregard what others do; focus on what's important to you. Changing how you use your money, skills and intelligence to get ahead will lead you in an entertaining and fruitful direction. Make romance and personal gain your priorities. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* It's OK to dream, but don't lose sight of what's tangible. Ask someone trustworthy for advice before buying something you don't need or that cannot help you. Get your facts straight and put a budget in place. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, effective and intelligent. You are self-sufficient and accomplished.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			1		3	
8					2		1
		5			4		
				7		1	
2			1	6	5		3
	4			9			
		1				8	
9			6				4
	8			2		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	3	9	6	2	4	1	5	7
1	6	5	9	8	7	3	4	2
2	7	4	1	5	3	8	9	6
3	4	8	7	9	6	2	1	5
5	2	6	4	1	8	9	7	3
9	1	7	2	3	5	6	8	4
6	5	3	8	7	9	4	2	1
7	8	2	3	4	1	5	6	9
4	9	1	5	6	2	7	3	8

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE DANUBE RIVER **Solution: 8 letters**

B	L	S	E	S	S	E	R	T	R	O	F	L	O	W
N	U	I	H	U	N	G	A	R	Y	S	F	E	E	R
T	O	D	M	I	T	O	B	S	E	A	B	A	S	S
R	A	E	A	E	B	E	E	C	A	S	T	Ⓛ	E	S
I	I	R	G	P	S	N	R	H	L	V	Ⓞ	A	A	H
B	K	Y	N	R	E	T	S	A	E	Ⓝ	A	O	I	U
U	A	A	N	L	U	S	O	N	Ⓖ	S	C	H	N	C
T	V	P	E	A	T	T	T	N	M	R	T	S	A	H
A	O	B	S	G	M	K	S	E	E	U	A	R	M	E
R	L	C	E	N	T	R	A	L	S	A	L	M	O	N
I	S	R	R	L	E	P	E	S	C	S	T	L	R	P
E	B	E	B	A	I	R	A	G	L	U	B	L	E	A
S	R	E	I	T	N	O	R	F	O	P	I	K	E	T
I	S	L	A	N	D	S	C	R	O	A	T	I	A	D
S	E	S	I	U	R	C	T	R	E	N	C	H	E	S

©2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/27

Belene, Boat, Breg, Budapest, Bulgaria, Castles, Central, Channels, Croatia, Cruises, Csepel, Delta, Eastern, Flow, Fortresses, Frontier, Germany, Huchen, Hungary, Islands, Limestone, Long, Margaret, Mullet, Peat, Pike, Ports, Reefs, Romania, Salmon, Sava, Seabass, Serbia, Shoal, Slovakia, Sturgeon, Trenches, Tributaries, Trout, Ukraine

Yesterday's Answer: Animation

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

Celtics run past Heat 93-80, move a win from NBA Finals

MIAMI (AP)—The Boston Celtics know the formula. They believe their defense, as has been the case time and again in these playoffs, will eventually wear down teams.

Hard to argue.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 points, Jayson Tatum added 22 and the Celtics are now one win from the NBA Finals. They ran away after halftime to beat the Miami Heat 93-80 on Wednesday night and take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference title series.

"I think the mental stress and strain we put on some teams with our defense has worked and carried us through the playoffs at times," Celtics coach Ime Udoka said.

Al Horford had 16 points and Derrick White added 14 for the Celtics. Tatum finished with 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Bam Adebayo scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Heat, who shot 32% in the game — after shooting 33% in Boston's 20-point win in Game 4. Gabe Vincent added 15, Jimmy Butler had 13 and Duncan Robinson scored 11 for Miami.

The Heat were 7 for 45 from 3-point range. They played without the injured Tyler Herro (groin), and several Miami players were questionable entering the day for a variety of ailments.

"We are not going to make any kind of deflection or any kind of excuse," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Boston beat us tonight. And let's be clear about that. There's guys that are far from 100% on both sides."

Game 6 is in Boston on Friday night, where a pair of trophies bearing the names of Celtics legends will be waiting. The Bob Cousy trophy goes to the East champs, the Larry Bird trophy to the East finals MVP, and the Celtics are one win from hoisting them.

"We've got an opportunity to do something with this group that's special," Brown said. "Let's not take that for granted."

This series has seen massive momentum swings — a 44-14 Miami run in Game 1, a 60-21 Boston run in Game 2, a 46-20 Miami run to open Game 3 followed by a 57-33 Boston run in the same game, and a 26-4 spurt by the Celtics to open Game 4.

The Game 5 run was just as big.

The score over a 6 1/2-minute stretch of the second half: Celtics 24, Heat 2. The turnaround was 59-58 Boston to 83-60 Boston.

AP

Boston Celtics center Al Horford (42) is congratulated by his teammates during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals playoff series against the Miami Heat, Wednesday, May 25, 2022, in Miami.

"In the first half it was tough because we weren't hitting shots and we were turning the ball over," Horford said. "But the key for us was continuing to do what we do defending, and then on offense playing how we play. And eventually we were able to get it going."

Boston outscored Miami 32-16 in the third quarter, holding the Heat to 17% shooting. The margin was only 11 at that point — but a 14-2 spurt was how Boston opened the fourth quarter, Brown capping the flurry by making three 3-pointers in a span of 2 1/2 minutes, and the lead was out to 23.

Brown then sealed matters with a down-the-lane dunk with 5:19 left, the lead was 18 at that point and the countdown was on for Boston.

"We're still lining up," Adebayo said. "We've still got to play these games. We still want to win."

The Celtics haven't reached the NBA Finals since 2010. There have been four East finals trips since then, with two losses to Miami and two to Cleveland. There were also two chances like the one that awaits Friday — Game 6 in 2012 against the Heat and Game 7 in 2018 against the Cavaliers — when the Celtics had a chance to claim the conference title simply by winning a game on their home floor.

They lost both, LeBron James serving as the official thwarter both times, with 45 points to save Miami in the 2012 game and 35 to lift Cleveland in the 2018 clincher.

He won't be in the Celtics' way this time.

Miami will need somebody to provide some semblance of an impersonation.

"We know what we're capable of," Butler insisted.

Offense was in short supply in the first half. Miami led 19-17 after one and 42-37 at the break. Tatum was 1 for 9 at intermission, Butler 2 for 8, and the teams combined to shoot 37.8% from the field and 21.6% from 3-point range.

Miami, somehow, got colder to start the second half. The Celtics did not.

The Heat missed their first nine shots from the field after the break, not getting anything to fall until Butler fended off contact and scored on a drive that got Miami within 49-48 with 6:53 left in the third.

But soon, the Celtics had control. Of the game. And the series.

"If you want to break through and punch a ticket to the finals, you're going to have to do some ridiculously tough stuff," Spoelstra said.

Boston is now 42-7 this season when holding teams to 105 points or less. Marcus Smart tested his sprained ankle pregame, declared himself good to go and had only five points but the Celtics outscored the Heat by 13 points in his nearly 24 minutes. White and Robert Williams III were a combined 7 for 8 in the first half, while the rest of their teammates were a combined 6 for 26.

Max Strus was 0 for 9, Kyle Lowry was 0 for 6, and the Heat starting guards are a combined 1 for 28 in their last two games. The 0-for-15 on Wednesday was the worst playoff showing for a starting backcourt since the NBA began tracking starters in 1970. It was the third-lowest point total of the season for the Heat (78 vs. Boston on Nov. 4, 79 vs. Philadelphia on May 6).

Warriors look to close out Mavs and get back to NBA Finals

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Golden State Warriors find themselves in familiar territory after failing to close out a series on the road and hope for familiar results when they return home.

For the third straight series, the Warriors lost their first chance to advance while playing on the road. But they can make it to their sixth NBA Finals in the past eight years by finishing off the Dallas Mavericks at home in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals on Thursday night.

The Warriors managed to rebound after those slip-ups in the first two rounds against Denver and Memphis and are hoping for a repeat after losing 119-109 at Dallas on Tuesday night when the Mavericks got off to a fast start and didn't slow down until the fourth quarter.

"It's a good lesson learned," guard Stephen Curry said. "You tip your hat to them because they made a lot of shots. We had a couple breakdowns in our zone that gave them easy looks, and they made us pay. We knew to close them out, it's going to be tough. So you've got to strap up on defense. When we go home, Game 5 and figure out how to slow them down, especially in the first quarter."

STAYING ALIVE

The Mavericks have staved off elimination three times this postseason, winning Games 6 and 7 against Phoenix in the second round and then again against the Warriors in Game 4. None of the games have been particularly close, with Dallas outscoring the opponents by 70 points in the three wins. Luka Doncic has led the way with 98 points and 35 rebounds in the three wins but says the key has been aggressiveness on offense and more commitment to defense.

"We've got to believe," Doncic said. "I think our defense was way better today, and I think we attacked the paint. Those two things are key, and that's what we've got to bring to San Francisco."

YOUTH MOVEMENT

The Warriors got back into the game in the fourth quarter thanks to a young lineup featuring 22-year-old Jordan Poole and 19-year-old rookies Jonathan Kuminga and Moses Moody. That trio, along with Nemanja Bjelica and Damion Lee, cut a 29-point deficit to eight points in the first 8:38 of the fourth quarter before Curry and the starters began to return.

The Mavericks closed it out from there but the flashes from the young group could earn them more time. Kuminga hadn't played at all the previous two games before scoring 17 points in just under 22 minutes in Game 4.

"It was great because they had an opportunity to go out there and make their presence felt, impact the game, build some confidence and some experience in this series and what it feels like to be out there," Curry said.

ROLLER COASTER

It's been a up-and-down series for Dallas' Reggie Bullock and getting the best version of him will be key if the Mavericks want to stay alive. Bullock made six 3-pointers and scored 21 points in a Game 2 loss before becoming the fifth player since at least 1968 to take at least 10 shots and score no points in a playoff game.

Bullock responded in Game 4 by making 6 of 10 3-pointers and scoring 18 points. That took pressure off Doncic, along with bounce-back performances from Dorian Finney-Smith, who had 23 points on 9-of-13 shooting, and Maxi Kleber, who went 5 for 6 for 13 points after missing 12 of 14 shots the first three games.

"We just made shots and we also was getting stops, so we got the chance to play a little faster, and we got them open shots early in the shot clock and not like end of the shot clock trying to shoot a bomb," Finney-Smith said.

TALL TASK

No team has ever rallied from 3-0 down to win a best-of-seven playoff series in NBA history and even getting it back to Dallas for Game 6 would be rare. Of the 146 previous teams to take a 3-0 lead, 90 finished off the series with a sweep with 42 more winning it in five. With a win Thursday, the Mavs would be the 12th team to force a Game 6 and only three teams have gotten to a Game 7 before losing.

Longoria homers twice, Giants rout Mets 9-3, take 2 of 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Evan Longoria homered twice and Joc Pederson hit his fourth in two games as the San Francisco Giants went deep four times in the first two innings off rookie Thomas Szapucki and routed the New York Mets 9-3 Wednesday.

Mike Yastrzemski also homered off Szapucki, a 25-year-old left-hander making his first major league start and second appearance after the Mets summoned him from the minors due to a string of injuries.

New York lost two of three in San Francisco, the Mets' second series loss in their first 14 series this season. New York had won its previous 14 games following a loss, the third-longest such streak in major league history behind the 1934 New York Giants (16) and 1911 Philadelphia Athletics (15).

The Mets also lost consecutive games for the first time since April 10 and 11. New York overcame an 8-2 deficit Tuesday to take leads of 11-8 and 12-11 before losing 13-12. That was the Mets' first loss in the 181 games in their history in which they scored 12 runs or more.

"That's a playoff team right there," Longoria said of the Mets. "I think we're all happy with the result."

Szapucki, who had been at Triple-A Syracuse, got the start because of injuries to Jacob deGrom, Max Scherzer and Tylor Megill. Szapucki allowed nine runs, seven hits and three walks in 1 1/3 innings, leaving him with a 60.75 ERA this season and a 27.00 ERA in his career. His only previous big league appearance was last June 30, when he gave up six runs and seven hits over 3 2/3 innings during a relief appearance in a 20-2 loss at Atlanta.

Szapucki threw just 23 of 49 pitches for strikes.

"Never could get into a rhythm," Mets manager Buck Showalter said. "Command was an issue. You know he wanted to do well with the opportunity that he had. They were on about everything he threw."

Following Chris Bassitt's poor outing Tuesday, Mets pitchers allowed eight runs in consecutive games for the fourth time after Jonathan Niese and Bartolo Colon in 2015, Dillon Gee and Niese in 2011 and Rick Reed, Al Leiter and Bobby J. Jones in 1999.

Mets left fielder Jeff McNeil, slid face first into the low fence in left field foul territory after catching Donovan Walton's third-inning fly. McNeil bruised his left knee when hitting the wall, left for a pinch hitter in the fourth.

"Precautionary," McNesaid of his removal. "Feel good. Ready to go on Friday."

Longoria, limited this season by a right hand injury, had four RBIs with his first two home runs of the season. He put the Giants ahead with a three-run homer in the first and followed Yastrzemski in the second with the Giants' second back-to-back homers this year, boosting the lead to 9-0.

Former Met Wilmer Flores had an RBI double in the second, driving in the Giants' only run that didn't score on a homer.

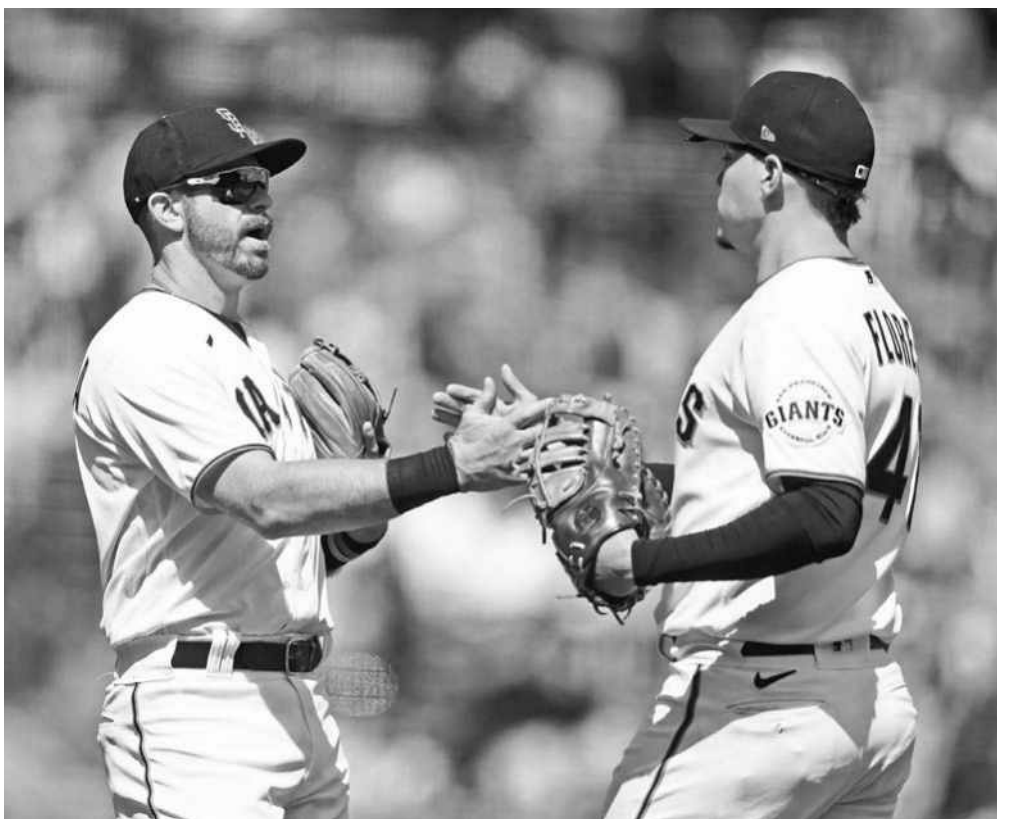
Pederson, who hit three homers and had eight RBIs on Tuesday, made it 5-0 in the second with his 11th home run this season. Pederson was given a rare start against a left-hander.

"That was just strictly self-preservation on my part," Giants manager Gabe Kapler said before the game. "I'm all good with trying to get the platoon advantage wherever possible but I also want to survive the day."

Jakob Junis (2-1) gave up two runs and three hits in six innings, throwing just 16 fastballs among 86 pitches. By altering velocities with his changeup and slider, Junis "created a guessing game in the hitters' minds," according to Kapler.

Francisco Lindor doubled and homered off Junis. He is 20 for 39 (.513) against him with six home runs.

San Francisco's Darin Ruf struck out four times — all in the first six innings



AP

San Francisco Giants' Evan Longoria, left, celebrates with Wilmer Flores after the Giants defeated the New York Mets in a baseball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

Nationals 1, Dodgers 0

In Washington, Erick Fedde (3-3) allowed four hits in six innings and combined with three relievers on a six-hitter.

César Hernández had an RBI single in the sixth off Julio Urías (3-4) as Washington stopped a nine-game skid against Los Angeles and avoided a series sweep. Tanner Rainey stranded two in the ninth inning for his fourth save , getting fly balls from Cody Bellinger and Will Smith to end it.

Los Angeles lost for only the second time in 11 games, but remained an NL-best 29-14.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 1

In Chicago, Jake Burger hit a three-run homer off Rich Hill, Lucas Giolito overcame a shaky first inning and Chicago ended Boston's six-game winning streak.

The White Sox won for the fourth time in six games and moved over .500 to 22-21. Burger, recalled Tuesday from Triple-A Charlotte after Luis Robert was placed on the COVID-19 injured list, hit an 0-2 breaking pitch in the fifth inning that traveled an estimated 444 feet.

Giolito (3-1) threw 27 pitches in the first but still allowed fewer than two runs for the fourth time this season. Liam Hendriks got the final four outs to earn his 14th save in 17 tries.

Hill (1-2) held the White Sox hitless through four innings but lost his lead quickly.

Rangers 7, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Mitch Garver homered in his third consecutive game, Kole Calhoun hit a two-run homer and Texas snapped a three-game skid.

Calhoun had three hits and scored three runs, while Garver drove in two runs for Texas. Glenn Otto (2-2) yielded three hits over five solid innings as the AL West rivals split a two-game series at the Big A.

Reid Detmers (2-2) pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning for Los Angeles in the rookie's first home start since throwing a no-hitter at Angel Stadium 15 days ago.

Anthony Rendon drove in an early run for the Angels, whose three-game winning streak ended.

Pirates 10, Rockies 5

In Pittsburgh, Jack Suwinski hit a tying three-run home run in the sixth, Ben Gamel gave the Pirates their first lead in the seventh with an RBI single off Justin Lawrence (1-1) and Josh VanMeter followed with a three-run homer later in the inning.

Dylan Peters (4-2) retired the last two batters in the seventh for the victory.

C.J. Cron hit his 12th home run for the Rockies to pull him into a tie for the National League lead with Los Angeles Dodgers star Mookie Betts.

Colorado placed outfielder Kris Bryant on the 10-day injured list with back soreness. Bryant missed nearly a month after initially tweaking the back in late April.

Astros 2, Guardians 1

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel and José Siri had two hits each, Cristian Javier tied a career high with nine strikeouts and Houston beat Cleveland to win their series.

It was a much-needed performance from Gurriel, who hit .319 last season to win the AL batting title but has struggled this year. He entered in an 0-for-9 slide and is hitting .224 this year.

Javier (3-2) allowed three hits in 5 2/3 scoreless innings as Houston won its second straight after dropping the series opener. Ryan Pressly struck out one in a scoreless ninth for his seventh save.

Cleveland starter Cal Quantrill (1-3) gave up six hits and two runs while walking four in six innings to lose his third straight decision.

Brewers 2, Padres 1

In San Diego, Rowdy Tellez doubled off Yu Darvish (4-2) to bring in the tying run in the seventh inning, Tyrone Taylor followed with a sacrifice fly and Milwaukee took two of three.

Former Padre Luis Perdomo (1-0) got the win, and Devin Williams pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

San Diego got an unearned run off Aaron Ashby. The pitcher's uncle, former San Diego pitcher Andy Ashby, watched from the second row near the Padres dugout.

Tigers 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Jeimer Candelario hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Trevor Megill (0-1) in the 10th inning after Harold Castro went deep twice earlier.

The Twins, who had their six-game winning streak stopped, loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom half. Michael Fulmer struck out Carlos Correa before yielding to Andrew Chafin, who struck out Max Kepler and retired Gary Sánchez on a foul pop for his first save this season.

Castro hit solo home runs in the sixth and eighth after going deep only nine times in his first 799 major league at-bats.

Alex Lange (1-1) got two outs for the win.

Athletics 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Seth Brown and Elvis Andrus homered off reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Robbie Ray (4-5), dropping Seattle into last place in the AL West. Seattle (18-27) has lost eight of 10.

Ray tied his season high with 10 strikeouts, but allowed a home run for the fifth straight start.

Paul Blackburn (5-0) allowed one hit over 5 1/3 innings, and Dany Jiménez pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Yankees 2, Orioles 0

In New York, JP Sears (2-0) allowed three hits in five innings to win his first career start and the relievers finished a five-hitter that improved the Yankees' big league-best record to 31-13.

Aaron Judge doubled and scored on a single by Miguel Andújar — his first RBI in the big leagues this season. New York added a second run in the fourth on a throwing error by prized rookie catcher Adley Rutschman.

Clay Holmes struck out Jorge Mateo with runners at the corners for his fifth save.

New York placed slugger Giancarlo Stanton (strained right calf) and reliever Jonathan Loáisiga (shoulder inflammation) on the injured list.

Rays 5, Marlins 4

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Harold Ramírez hit a two-run homer that capped a five-run first before the fourth straight crowd under 10,000 at Tropicana Field.

Drew Rasmussen (5-1) won his fifth straight decision over six starts, giving up three runs and six hits in five innings. Colin Poche struck out Jesús Aguilar to strand the bases loaded in the ninth and get his first save since 2019.

Miami has lost five of six and is 6-16 following a 12-8 start. Cody Poteet (0-1) gave up five runs, four hits and three walks in three innings.

Reds 4, Cubs 3

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto homered and tripled, then shouted at reliever Rowan Wick.

Votto had a solo homer in the second off Kyle Hendricks (2-5) and a two-run triple in the third. Wick brushed back the 16-year veteran in the eighth, then walked him. Votto barked at Wick as he made his way to first.

An inning later, Reds reliever Hunter Strickland plunked Patrick Wisdom, and Cubs manager David Ross was ejected by plate umpire Dan Merzel after leaving the dugout to protest. Strickland got his first sav.e.

Luis Castillo (1-2) needed 32 pitches to get through a two-run first but allowed only two hits over his final four innings.

Braves 8, Phillies 4

In Atlanta, Dansby Swanson scored for a 5-4 lead in the fifth inning on a play that started with a wild pitch by reliever José Alvarado (0-2) and a high throw from catcher J.T. Realmuto in an attempt to keep Swanson from reaching second.

The ball sailed past the outstretched gloves of Jean Segura at second and Bryson Stott at shortstop, then went under the glove of center fielder Odúbel Herrera for a two-base error.

Spencer Strider (1-1) got the win in relief.

Chong's Corp., FHB are latest Bronze sponsors for Mini Games

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_ gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Two more companies joined the growing list of sponsors for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 yesterday with Chong's Corp. and First Hawaiian Bank each donating $10,000, making them bronze sponsors of the quadrennial event that the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever next month.

Along with the cash donation, Chong's will be helping out with refurbishing two air-conditioning units at the Marianas High School Gymnasium which is the site for the weightlifting event of the Mini Games.

Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta thanked Chong's Corp. president Joanna Pai for her company's generous donation of cash and the refurbished air-conditioning units.

"[Chong's] donated $10,000 in cash in lieu of the refurbished [air-con units]. There is some cost to it, but she minimized the cost… so we don't have to also pay that much. So, thanks to her, it is a big, big savings for us having a refurbished air-conditioning [units] versus trying to rent one and then install it… A lot of value in-kind [donation] also went into that."

LEIGH GASES

First Hawaiian Bank management, including vice president and area manager Vickie Izuka, and Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta pose with the $10,000 ceremonial check handed over yesterday at FHB's Oleai branch.

LEIGH GASES

Mini Games Organizing committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta poses with Chong's Corp. staff, led by president Joanna Pai, after the company turned over its $10,000 donation yesterday morning at the company's building in Gualo Rai.

""It's quite important for us and as a competition venue to ensure that we also meet that requirement for the competition, so we appreciate expediting the refurbishing of the air-conditioning [units] to deliver the Games. And of course, the $10,000 in cash will bring us obviously a long way," added Babauta.

Pai said after the donation that "This is for the community. It's a big event for Saipan and the CNMI's history. So for us, it's a small business, but even with this small amount, we're happy to donate to the Pacific Mini Games. So we are just happy to donate."

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

After the check turnover ceremony at Chong's Corp. in the morning, Babauta in the afternoon headed down to meet with FHB management at its Oleai branch for the check presentation worth $10,000.

"On behalf of First Hawaiian Bank, we are happy to support the Pacific Mini Games. We are very excited to see our community in the forefront of this great event and we welcome all those visiting the island with a 'hafa adai.' Good luck to those participating in the Game. Biba! At First Hawaiian Bank, it all starts with YES!" said FHB vice president and area manager Vickie N. Izuka.

Babauta thanked FHB on behalf of the MGOC. "[We] would like to take First Hawaiian Bank for your generous contribution. This will serve us in a really, really long way as a host… this will definitely benefit our athletes and our visiting officials and delegates also. So thank you so much for your generosity and support."

ED

From Page 28

"Life is so simple here and I have a lot of good friends here. Almost every day on Saipan is happy and problem-free."

Cosino, who was the starting center of runner-up Eagle Construction in the just concluded masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League, said his most unforgettable moment on the hardcourts of Saipan happened nearly 30 years ago.

"It was when we played the CNMI nationals in a best-of-three championship in 1993. In Game 2, I dominated the inside and outside but in Game 3 we lost because they really won't let their national teams lose here," he said.

Just some of the players in that 1993 CNMI national team were Ray Lizama, Edsel Mendoza, and brothers Tony and Ed Diaz and Peter and Abong Camacho.

Former CNMI national basketball coach Elias Rangamar said Cosino is one of the smartest players he has known and is the consummate team player. "He's always about how he can help his team win. I wish we could've played more but all of us have creaking knees now."

The former Division of Sports & Recreation staff said he'll definitely miss Cosino's friendship because every time they meet they always talk about the old days of playing basketball at the sauna-like conditions of the old Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

"I like to call him the 'Big Easy' because he's one of the best passing big men and he can shoot outside and he can play inside. I enjoy playing with him as we played together in some leagues. But at the beginning our teams played against each other but there's always respect. I wish him luck on his future endeavors," he added.

Former Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White said Cosino was one heck of a competitor when he squared up against him in the '90s.

"Ed was always a tough opponent. I wish him well in whatever the future may hold for him."

His coach at Eagle Construction, Boy Garcia, said the 6'3" Cosino was one of the most dominant centers on island during his prime.

"Wish him good luck in the next episode of his journey," he said.

Bong Malasarte, who played with and against Cosino in the past, said the former Philippine Amateur Basketball League player was one of the best players to have come from the Philippines and played on Saipan.

"Wishing you all the best in your new journey. We will miss you in the basketball courts of Saipan," he said.

Cosino moved to Saipan in 1989 after injuries forced him to quit semi-pro basketball in the Philippines.

He initially was employed by RB Construction, where he juggled work during the day and played for the company's team in the evenings and weekends.

Cosino suited up for champion teams FT-SNE and Toyota Wheels of the early 1990s.

He would also play for the Tony Sablan-coached Verizon teams in the late 1990s and early 2000. That team went on to dominate the 35-and-over masters league with the likes of Richard "Doc" Brostrom, Dado Vistal, Frank Iglecias, Elmer Pineda, Jack Palacios, and the late Felix Palacios in its lineup.

Other teams he suited up for in the course of a 33-year basketball career on Saipan were SMF Shell, Visminda, and other notable teams in the UFO Inter-Organizational Basketball League.

MARK RABAGO

Ed Cosino, who arrived on Saipan in 1989, said he'll miss the island's tropical year-round climate and his close friends the most as he relocates to California this Saturday.

NMTECH

From Page 28

min Babauta is in charge of coordinating the project and said students of the technical school are expected to put the finishing touches on the latte stone-shaped cauldron a week before the start of the Mini Games.

"I just want to say thank you to our team and NMTech students for putting this together in such a short time. This is just a small sample of what we can do and what we want to do in the future," he said.

MGOC chair Marco Peter thanked NMTech and noted that with the unveiling of the latte stone-shaped cauldron NMTech has certainly placed its stamp on the Mini Games with the structure right smack on the athletics field and venue for the June 17 opening ceremony for the 11th staging of the quadrennial event.

The CNMI will host the Mini Games for the first time ever from June 16 to 25 this year. Aside from athletics, the other sports in the events calendar are badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, va'a, and weightlifting.

In all, 1,034 athletes from 20 countries will compete in the Mini Games. The 20 nations that will take part include host CNMI, Fiji, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia, Guam, Papua New Guinea, Tahiti, Palau, Wallis & Futuna, Nauru, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Australia, Tuvalu, Tonga, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, and Norfolk Island.

Founded by the late businessman Anthony Pellegrino, NMTech is a postsecondary educational institute that is responsible for providing advanced career, vocational, technical and trades programs that lead to endorsed certifications in the fields of Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism; and nationally recognized certifications from the National Center for Construction Education and Research for construction-specific programs. ***(Chrystal Marino, Jin Kim Abogado, Angel Li)***

COLLEAGUES

From Page 28

Tournament. Has a great addition to the program and that's how he started his career in Little League Baseball. I will of course miss him but again I understand his plan," he said.

SLLBA vice president A.J. Murig thanked Borja for his many years of volunteerism and dedication to the local Little League program not just on Saipan but also on Tinian and Rota.

"I've served with Mike in many different capacities, as member of the SLLB board of directors and as official of the Asia Pacific Regional Tournaments that were held here on Saipan and I really want to thank him for his mentorship and his guidance when I served as president of SLLB."

Murig added that while Borja will be stepping down, he expects his mentor to be still part of SLLBA in one way or another.

"Although he may be retiring from the board I know that he will still be a very strong supporter of Little League Baseball on Saipan and as well as on Rota and Tinian."

Murig said he's also ready to take on more responsibility in SLLBA if ever he's asked to replace Borja as president of the program.

"My grandfather, the late 'Tan Ko' (Francisco M. Palacios), was one of the founding fathers of Little League in the CNMI. He dedicated more than 40 years of his life to baseball here in the CNMI so I will always be willing to assist our Little League program. I've served as SLLBA president for two terms and if the members and volunteers and managers and coaches of SLLBA need me to serve again in any capacity, I am willing," he said.

The 54-year-old Borja announced his intention to retire from SLLBA citing health concerns and his desire to spend more time with his family.

The Division of Roads and Grounds director at the Department of Public Works wants to avoid being stressed because of high blood pressure and in 2019 suffered some internal bleeding.

Celtics run past Heat 93-80, move a win from NBA Finals

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Chong's Corp., FHB are latest Bronze sponsors for Mini Games

PAGE 27

Ed 'Big Easy' Cosino bids Saipan adieu

MARK RABAGO
Vedasto "Ed" Cosino poses with, from left, his son Tyrone, wife Rowena, and daughter Trixy at the Sugar King Park in Garapan. The veteran center and his family will leave Saipan this Saturday, May 28.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Veteran center Vedasto "Ed" Cosino is bidding adieu to Saipan after making the island his home for the past 33 years.

"We want to try living in the U.S. mainland for a change. We've lived here more than three decades already so we're moving to San Leandro first then to San Diego, California," he said.

Cosino will relocate to California with his wife Rowena and three of their children—Troy (23 years old), Tyrone (16), and Trixy (11). Two of their elder children—Tristan (30) and Terrence (29)—are based in Cosino's native Manila, Philippines.

Asked what he'll miss most about island life, the many time champion and mythical team member of local leagues said it will be Saipan's tropical year-round climate and, of course, his close friends.

See ED on Page 27

Colleagues pay tribute to Borja

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Colleagues are paying tribute to outgoing Saipan Little League Baseball Association president Mike Borja soon after the long-serving official announced his intention to step down from his post earlier this week.

CNMI Little League District director James Ada said Borja's experience and wisdom in baseball, especially in the local Little League program, will be hard to replace. He, however, said he understands the reason his good friend is retiring.

Ada

"A person with knowledge with a great compassion for the game. I actually appointed Mike in 1992 in preparation for the CNMI hosting the Far East Baseball Regional

Murig

See COLLEAGUES on Page 27

NMTech donates $25K, 'latte stone' cauldron to Mini Games

Northern Marianas Technical Institute unveiled a 15-foot latte stone structure it's been building at the Oleai Track and Field Wednesday that will serve as the cauldron for the flame that will be lit during the opening ceremony of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 on June 17

JIN KIM ABOGADO
Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter holds the ceremonial check with MGOC CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta and Northern Marianas Technical Institute CEO Jodina Attao during the unveiling of the latte stone-shaped cauldron and donation of $25,000 to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Oleai Track and Field.

Aside from the latte stone-shaped cauldron at the Oleai Sports Complex, NMTech also turned over a $25,000 check to the Mini Games Organizing Committee. The technical school said it's also turning over nine award podium sets, five 5-foot high tennis umpire chairs, and one 16-foot register counter for the athletes as part of its in-kind donation to the Mini Games.

NMTech Marketing and Outreach coordinator Benja-

See NMT on Page 27